



**JACKS, KOHLI POWER
RCB TO 9-WICKET
WIN AGAINST GT**

Will Jacks slammed a sensational hundred, while Virat Kohli (both in picture) upped his game in the middle overs as Royal Challengers Bengaluru outplayed Gujarat Titans by nine wickets in the IPL in Ahmedabad on Sunday. Jacks (100 not out off 41) and Kohli (70 not out of 44) chased the 201-run target with 24 balls to spare. | P 15



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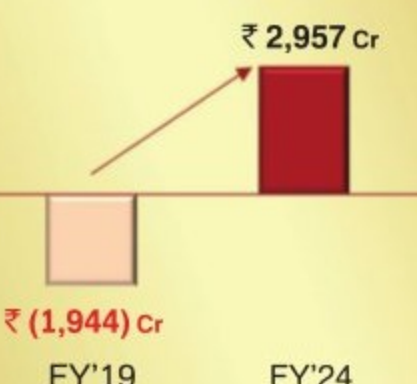
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AFTER PUTTING OFF INDIA VISIT, TESLA CEO MUSK LANDS IN CHINA

Elon Musk met Chinese Premier Li Qiang and discussed Tesla's future expansion plans in the country during Sunday's surprise visit to Beijing

MUSK WANTS SELF-DRIVING CARS IN CHINA

Reports had said Musk would discuss bringing Tesla's autonomous driving technology to China during his meeting with Chinese officials. China's electric vehicle (EV) sector has exploded in recent years. Tesla is facing stiff competition in the country from local brands including BYD, which beat out Tesla in last year's fourth quarter to become the world's top EV seller

MASSIVE AUTO SHOW OPENS IN BEIJING

Musk's visit comes as thousands of car lovers and company representatives descended on Beijing this week for the massive Auto China show, which opened to the public over the weekend
Musk recently skipped a scheduled visit to India to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi to firm up plans for a Tesla factory here | P14

1.7 million

CARS SOLD BY TESLA IN CHINA
SINCE IT ENTERED THAT MARKET IN 2012

Blow to Cong
as its Delhi unit
chief quits over
AAP alliance

ASHISH SRIVASTAVA @ New Delhi

IN a major setback to the Congress, its Delhi unit president Arvinder Singh Lovely resigned on Sunday citing the party's alliance with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) as one of the reasons.

In his resignation letter to All India Congress Committee (AICC) president Mallikarjun Kharge, Lovely said the Delhi Congress unit was against the alliance with the AAP. He said the AAP was "formed on the sole basis of levelling false, fabricated and mala fide corruption charges against the Congress" and added that many of the party's cabinet ministers are at present in jail on corruption charges. "Despite that, the party made a decision to ally with the AAP in Delhi," he wrote.

Lovely also slammed the party for overlooking veteran leaders and giving tickets to "strangers". He was referring to newcomers Kanhaiya Kumar and Udit Raj, whom Congress has fielded from North East Delhi and North West Delhi, respectively.

In the four-page resignation letter, Lovely said AICC's general secretary in charge of Delhi Deepak Babaria was undermining the decisions taken by the leaders of the party's Delhi unit. He charged that Babaria was not allowing him to discharge his duties as Congress' Delhi unit president.

Kharge accepted his resignation, which comes as Delhi is set to vote in the sixth phase of Lok Sabha elections on May 25 for its seven seats.

EXPRESS READ

Out-of-syllabus CET queries won't be marked

Bengaluru: The state government has directed the Karnataka Examination Authority to remove out-of-syllabus questions in the Common Entrance Test 2024 from the assessment and evaluate only the remaining questions. 50 questions -- Physics (9), Chemistry (25), Mathematics (15) and Biology (11) -- will not be assessed. P2

Drugs worth ₹600 crore seized from Pak boat off Gujarat coast

Coast Guard arrests 14 crew members; narcotics consignment was meant for Sri Lanka

MAYANK SINGH & UJWAL JALALI
@ New Delhi

INDIAN security agencies have intercepted 86 kg of narcotics worth ₹600 crore from a Pakistani boat from Indian waters west of Porbandar off the Gujarat coast. Fourteen crew members were arrested and the vessel was seized during a coordinated joint sea operation by the Indian Coast Guard, Narcotics Control Bureau, and the Gujarat Anti-terrorism Squad, officials said on Sunday. The crew and boat were brought to Porbandar for further investigation.

Sources said the operation was carried out following precise intelligence inputs provided by the Gujarat ATS about contraband being transported through Indian waters.

Speaking to reporters in Gan-



Indian Coast Guard personnel with 14 crew members of a Pakistani boat after apprehending them from Indian waters off the Gujarat coast on Sunday | P11

dhinagar, Gujarat DGP Vikas Sahay said the consignment was meant for Sri Lanka. "Such is the network of ATS that even if the receiver is not an Indian but out waters are being used,

we get the exact information," he said, adding that all 14 people on the Pakistani fishing boat, Al-Raza, are residents of Balochistan, Pakistan.

The operation involved the

Coast Guard ship Rajratan and supporting aircraft. "The swift response of the Rajratan, supported by a fleet of ships and aircraft on concurrent missions, left no room for escape for the drug-laden vessel," a defence ministry statement said.

Preliminary tests conducted by the NCB at the port showed the seized drugs, concealed in 78 packets, were heroin and methamphetamine.

It was the third operation in the Sagarmathan series which has been launched with an aim to interdict ships carrying narcotics contraband.

The first operation was in February, which led to the highest offshore seizure of 3,300 kg of drugs. It also was a joint operation of the Indian Navy, NCB and Gujarat police. In March, 62 kg of narcotics was seized in another operation.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated by BJP workers at a Lok Sabha election rally in Sirsi on Sunday | EXPRESS

With I.N.D.I.A., there'll be 5 PMs in 5 yrs: Modi

G SUBHASH CHANDRA
@ Davanagere

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday launched a scathing attack on the opposition INDIA bloc, saying it has come up with a new formula of one prime minister for one year and this will lead to five prime ministers in five years.

"If this is the scenario, what will happen next," he asked a massive gathering of people from Davanagere and Haveri districts. "The coun-

try will never tolerate such things. The INDIA bloc government will not witness any development. People should not waste their vote on these leaders, and instead elect a strong NDA government at the Centre," he said. He asked people whether they would vote in the dark for the INDIA bloc that does not have a prime ministerial candidate.

Congress has come up with a "dangerous" formula of inheritance tax. If it comes to power, it will tax what people save for their children. P6

RSS CHIEF HAD OPPOSED RESERVATION POLICY IN PAST, SAYS RAHUL GANDHI



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat had expressed his opposition to quotas in the past. "RSS chief makes a statement that RSS is not against reservation. It was he (Mohan Bhagwat) who had made a statement that he was opposed to reservation," Rahul said at a campaign rally in Daman in the Union Territory of Daman and Diu. He added that those who are against reservation are joining the BJP. "They welcome all those who are against reservation, and then he says he is not against reservation," he said

Man prints 'vote for Modi' on wedding card, booked

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mangaluru

THE Dakshina Kannada police recently registered a case against a man, who got married recently, for printing a message on his wedding invitation card, asking guests to vote for Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The case was filed after election officials filed a complaint, pointing to a violation of the model code of conduct.

Shivaprasad alias Ravi got married on April 18 at Gollitottu in Kadaba taluk. On his wedding invitation card, which he got printed on March 1, he had appealed to his relatives and other guests that the biggest gift that they can give him and his new wife would be to elect Modi as Prime Minister again for a stronger India. P8

RSS ALWAYS SUPPORTED RESERVATION: BHAGWAT

AARTI KASHYAP @ Hyderabad

RASHTRIYA Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday said the Sangh has always supported reservations and asserted it would continue to do so.

Speaking at the inauguration of Vidya Bharati Vignana Kendra in Nadergul on the outskirts of Hyderabad, Bhagwat said, "The Sangh has unconditionally supported all reservations since they were introduced in the country as per constitution-

al provisions. It also holds the opinion that as long as social inequality exists, reservations must be continued."

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had on Thursday alleged that the BJP and RSS have declared a war on the Constitution with the aim of scrapping reservations for SC, ST and OBC communities. "The RSS has a policy to abolish quotas by 2025," the CM

claimed at Gandhi Bhavan here. He reiterated the claim at a press conference here on Saturday and alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was planning a surgical strike on quotas.

Speaking on Sunday, the RSS sarsangchalak said the allegation that the Sangh was against reservations was baseless. "When I came to Hyderabad on Saturday, I learnt that there was a video in circulation indicat-

ing that though the Sangh pretended to support the reservations publicly, it strongly opposed them. There is absolutely no truth in this." Dismissing the video showing him speaking against the reservations at a meeting as fake, Bhagwat denied that such an event was ever conducted by the RSS. He further emphasised that the Hindu religion believed that Lord Rama existed in every person and that this very belief was the foundation of unity in the country.

Rajkot reverse swing to unite the Patidars

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
@ Ahmedabad

A seemingly innocuous statement by Union minister Parshottam Rupala praising the Dalit community snowballed into an affront against the Rajput communities with the latter demanding that he be dropped as the BJP candidate for the Rajkot Lok Sabha seat.

Multiple attempts to broker peace failed and the BJP refused to blink. Stirring the pot by design or otherwise seems to have united the Patidars who have a historic animosity with the Rajputs.

Rupala had on March 22 lauded the Dalit community for not bowing down to the British when even "kings and royals" had started breaking bread with the Britishers. Since the rulers of the princely states during the British Raj were mostly Rajputs, they launched statewide protests against Rupala and gave a call to boycott him in the Rajkot polls. It had repercussions beyond the

state as well.

Till the controversy broke, Rajkot was among the safest of BJP seats in Gujarat. It has been with the BJP since 1989 except giving the Congress the mandate once in 2009. The BJP gave Rupala the ticket after dropping its sitting candidate Mohan Kundaria, who had also served as a Union minister of state for agriculture.

The Rajput discontentment cannot be brushed away easily as they have an estimated 1.5 lakh votes out of about 20 lakh voters in the constituency. The constituency is dominated by Patidars whose vote share is 25%.

While Rupala belongs to the Kadva sub caste of the Patidars, his Congress opponent Parshottam Dhanani is a Leuva Patidar, another Patidar sub caste. Rajkot has 1.91 lakh Kadva voters as compared to 3.50 lakh Leuva Patidars.

Dhanani is a former leader of opposition in the Gujarat

assembly. If he can draw even 50% of the Leuva Patidars to his side, he can make the going difficult for Rupala who is al-

ready facing Rajput unrest. After failing to mollify the Rajputs, BJP leader and former chief minister Vijay Rupani told the media. "If a few persons are unhappy and don't vote for the party candidate, it will not make much difference. Rupala will win the election by a big margin."

For his part, Rupala exuded confidence in getting the Rajput votes, adding he would make it to the Lok Sabha by a good margin. But Dhanani claims the people are angry and want to defeat Rupala.

Both Rupala and Dhanani are from Amreli district and in the past Dhanani has defeated Rupala in assembly elections.

Among the major issues in Rajkot are unemployment, affordable crop insurance, ensuring fair prices for agricultural produce, industrial slowdown and water scarcity. But the overarching Narendra Modi factor in Gujarat is a no-brainer. How well it will play out in Rajkot remains to be seen.



ILLUSTRATION: MANOJ PARDIKAR



(from left) Tarundeep Rai, Dhiraj Bommadevara, Ankita Bhakat, Sanjeeva Singh (high performance director, archery) and Pravin Jadhav | AAI

INDIA SHOW PRECISION

Indian archers finished on a high in the World Cup in Shanghai on Sunday. A look...

MEN SHOCK OLYMPIC CHAMPS

India men's recurve team of Dhiraj Bommadevara, Tarundeep Rai and Pravin Jadhav shocked reigning Olympic champions, South Korea, to return with a World Cup gold medal for the first time after 14 years. India won 5-1 (57-57, 57-55, 55-53) in the final. Two members from Korea -- Kim Woojin and Kim Je Deok -- were part of Tokyo Olympics gold-medal winning team

SHOOTING STAR

Indian skeet shooter Maheshwari Chauhan took India's quota tally in the sport to 21 with a silver-medal effort in the ISSF Final Olympic Qualification Championship in Doha on Sunday. Maheshwari had put up a strong show in the first four rounds of the qualification stage. In the final, she did well to stay in hunt for the top prize. She is understandably stoked after this effort. India will have women representation in skeet shooting for the first time in Olympics

SILVER LINING

Former World No 1 Deepika Kumari, who missed 2023 after becoming a mother in December 2022, eliminated two Koreans in the quarterfinal and the semifinal of the women's recurve individual section before losing to Asian Games gold medalist, Lim Sihyeon, in the final

BRONZE AGE

Dhiraj also combined with Ankita Bhakat to return with a bronze medal in the mixed team event. The Indian pair beat Alejandra Valencia and Matias Grande of Mexico 6-0

COMPOUND INTEREST

India finished with five gold, one silver and a bronze. Compound archers had swept the team events, winning the men's, women's and mixed team gold medals. Reigning Asian Games champion, Jyothi Surekha Vennam, added a fourth gold in women's compound individual section | P15

CHARGES AGAINST COURT STAFF SHOULD BE VIEWED SERIOUSLY, SAYS CITY COURT

Bailiff appears to be involved in the fraud, custodial interrogation needed: Judge

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

OBSERVING that the allegations against the court staff committing fraud against the court are serious, the 51st Additional City Civil and Sessions Court refused to grant anticipatory bail to Girish D, working as a bailiff in the Small Causes Court in the city. He had allegedly served a notice to the fake tenant to hand over the possession of the property to the fake owner.

Judge Yashawanth Kumar noted that Girish's custodial interrogation is required. The public prosecutor, representing the CID probing the case, filed a report before the court stating that though Girish was aware that the property belonged to the complainant, AT Ravikumar, he served notice to the

fake tenant, John Pinto, to hand over the property to the fake owner, Shanmugam Chettiyar, without visiting the place and making a proper inquiry about Pinto. He did not obtain identification proof from Pinto.

The judge noted that Girish had not brought the alleged fraud to the notice of the Small Causes Court. He appears to be involved in the fraud, which is not only against the complainant but also society and the court, the judge said.

The Bharathi Nagar police have registered the case against seven accused and others based on Ravikumar's complaint filed in 2016, alleging that he is the owner of the property bearing No.7 on St John's Road, Ward No. 90, measuring 5,272 sqft. The ac-

cused broke open the gate of the property, and changed the colour of the building, name board and lock.

The police came to know that the accused created fake documents for Ravikumar's property and filed an eviction suit before the Small

Causes Court and obtained an order to evict John Pinto.

The parties later compromised and obtained a decree. They filed an execution petition and obtained an order to evict the tenant

from the property and take illegal possession of the property. After April 2019, to save his property, Ravikumar paid Rs 50 lakh to accused John Moses and his henchmen, against whom 120 similar cases have been registered.



RUN FOR A CAUSE

Thousands of enthusiasts and runners took part in the open run during 10K marathon organised by TCS, in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA (MORE PICS ON CITY EXPRESS)

Conventional fuel vehicles opt to retrofit CNG kits

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

WITH an increased number of people being fascinated with CNG-powered vehicles, that help reduce operational cost, many car owners, especially those in the travel industry, are opting to retrofit Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) kits. Users admitted that migrating from petrol and diesel to CNG has helped cut down operation costs by over 30 per cent, with CNG also providing good mileage at a low cost.

Gnanendra Kumar, Additional Commissioner of Transport, Government of Karnataka, said, "Registration of CNG-powered vehicles is increasing every year. However, we see a spike in the number of cars going to retrofit CNG kits."

"The CNG kits which come in new vehicles are costlier than the retrofitted ones. That's one of the reason fuelling the spike in retrofitting CNG kits. The cost for retrofitting CNG kits in a BS6 vehicle is around Rs 55,000, and in other variants it is much lesser," Gnanendra Kumar said.

While there is no exact data available on the number of petrol and diesel vehicles that has opted for retrofitment, Kumar said that he has

received request from cab operators like MERU. "We have got a request from MERU Taxi to retrofit all their cars that are providing airport services. Likewise, there are many who are into travel industry who have opted for retrofitment. The operators said that by migrating to CNG their operation costs gets reduced by more than 30 per cent. There are many private car owners too who are shifting towards CNG to save money and also for the reason that it is less polluting compared to petrol and diesel," he said.

Vehicle owners have to apply for retrofit, get CNG kits fitted from government approved retrofitting centres and then bring the vehicles for certification at the Regional Transport Office. Post vehicle inspection by our transport officials, it will be approved and the data uploaded on the Vahan database, Kumar explained.

President of Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association, Radha Krishna Holla said, "The trend of shifting to CNG retrofitting is high in tier 2 and tier 3 cities like Udipi, Gadag and other areas. The cost of CNG, when compared to diesel and petrol is very less and provides better mileage, which is thus pushing many to opt for this service."



4-fold rise in immunodeficiency cases in 7 yrs

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

DOCTORS have noticed a significant rise in the number of children being affected by rare genetic immunodeficiency cases in Bengaluru.

A decade ago such cases were limited to 1-2 per month. But now, at least 10-12 cases are being reported every month. In the previous year alone, more than 200 diagnoses were confirmed and experts anticipate the trend to continue in the coming years as well.

Dr Sagar Bhattad, Consultant, Paediatric Immunology and Rheumatology at Aster CMI Hospital explained that a child falling sick repeatedly and depending on frequent use of antibiotics might indicate a significant genetic immune issue, and such conditions could potentially impact more than one child in the same family.

"Over 450 cases have been identified in the last seven years, with 30 cases being reported annually, which has currently reached to 127 cases being reported every year. The number of cases detected in this time period, has increased approximately four times, and this pattern illustrates a nationwide concern, with an estimation of 1 lakh Indians experiencing undiagnosed immune deficiencies," told Dr Bhattad.

"Early diagnosis of these conditions in children, will ensure tailored treatment and reduces the likelihood of re-



current infections and unnecessary antibiotic usage. Genetic testing during pregnancy can detect potential issues and mitigate the risk of recurrence in subsequent pregnancies," he added.

A comprehensive strategy ensuring accessibility to trained pediatric immunologists and specialized immunology centres is necessary to tackle this situation. Making genetic testing more affordable, and accessible will facilitate earlier diagnoses and improve treatment effectiveness, Dr Bhattad said.

Dr Gayathri Kamath, Additional Director, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Fortis Hospital explained that rare genetic deficiencies can significantly influence decisions regarding family planning and reproductive choices for affected individuals and their families. Treatment choices might be fewer, and results may differ, she added.

Fire breaks out in Srigandhakaval forest

Bengaluru: A fire broke out in Srigandhakaval forest area near Summanahalli Bridge on Saturday night around 9.45 pm, which engulfed almost 3 acres of forest area. However, no casualties were reported. Five fire tenders worked for nine hours to douse the fire. The fire spread widely as a result of intense heatwave. The incident was allegedly the result of a small fire set to dry garbage by miscreants, suspect officials. The Kamakshipalya police have registered a complaint.



IN THE COURT OF PRINCIPAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE, BENGALURU RURAL MISC. NO. 19/2024

BETWEEN:
B. M. SREENIVASIAH EDUCATIONAL TRUST, A Registered Trust having registered address at Bull Temple Road, Bengaluru - 560 019.
REPRESENTED BY ITS TRUSTEE,
Mr. Aviram Sharma ... PETITIONER

NIL ... RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the above named has made Petition to this court under Section 92 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 for the Grant leave to the Petitioners to institute Original Suit under Section 92 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 in favour of the Petitioner, in respect of schedule mentioned below. The below mentioned schedule has held by the Petitioner Trust herein

Interested parties are hereby called to appear in this court in person or by pleader duly instructed on 30.05.2024 at 11.00 AM inform to show cause against the Petitioner appearance will be heard and declared as Ex-Parte.

SCHEDULE
SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All those non-Agricultural converted lands comprised in Sy. Nos. 11, 12, 13/1, 13/2, 13/3, 16/2, 17, 18, 19/1A, 19/1B, 19/2, 20, 21, 22/1, 22/2, 23, 23/2, 23/3, 24, 25, 26/2A, 192B, 26/2C, 26/3, 26/4, 26/5A, 26/5B, 28/1, 28/2, 28/3, 29, 30, 31, 32/1, 32/2, 45, 48/1 and 45/2B, all situated at Avalahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk Bangalore District in all admeasuring 22 Acres 09 Guntas and Presently bearing Panchayath Khata No. 475/507 and e-Khata No. 15020020200300571, in the records of Singanayakanahalli Gram Panchayath, Bangalore North and commonly bounded on the East by: Railway Line and Private Properties; West by: Road (Doddaballapur Road); North by: Private Properties; and South by: Private Properties.

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

ITEM NO. 1

a. All Residential Apartment bearing No. 1155 on Level - 15/Fourteenth Floor situated in Tower - 1 in the Project viz., 'Prestige Royale Gardens', developed on Schedule 'A' Property and measuring 923 Sq. Ft., of carpet area and 443 Sq. Ft., of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use and totally measuring 1705 Sq. Ft., of super built-up area, with right to use One Covered Car Parking Space in the Basement/Stilt Floor and the apartment is presently bearing e-Khata No.15020020200322482 in the records of Singanayakanahalli Gram Panchayath, Bangalore North and the apartment is bounded on: East: Apartment No.1156 in Level-15/Fourteenth Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. West: Shaft ATT, Apartment No.1154 in Level-15/Fourteenth Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. North: Open towards Open Space at Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. South: Corridor in Level-15/Fourteenth Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'.

b. 482.44 Sq. Ft. (44.82 Sq. Mtrs.) of undivided share, right, title, interest, and ownership of land in Schedule 'A' Property.

ITEM NO. 2

a. All that Residential Apartment bearing No. 1013 on Level - 1/Ground Floor situated in Tower - 1 in the Project viz., 'Prestige Royale Gardens', developed on Schedule 'A' Property and measuring 1262 Sq. Ft., of carpet area and 443 Sq. Ft., of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use and totally measuring 1705 Sq. Ft., of super built-up area, with right to use One Covered Car Parking Space in the Basement/Stilt Floor and the apartment is presently bearing e-Khata No.15020020200322515 in the records of Singanayakanahalli Gram Panchayath, Bangalore North and the apartment is bounded on: East: Lift ATT, Apartment No.1014 in Level-1/Ground Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. West: Open Space at Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. North: Open Space at Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. South: Staircase/Corridor in Level-1/Ground Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'.

b. 630.87 Sq. Ft. (58.61 Sq. Mtrs.) of undivided share, right, title, interest, and ownership of land in Schedule 'A' Property.

ITEM NO. 3

a. All that Residential Apartment bearing No. 1153 on Level - 15/Fourteenth Floor situated in Tower - 1 in the Project viz., 'Prestige Royale Gardens', developed on Schedule 'A' Property and measuring 1262 Sq. Ft., of carpet area and 443 Sq. Ft., of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use and totally measuring 1705 Sq. Ft., of super built-up area, with right to use One Covered Car Parking Space in the Basement/Stilt Floor and the apartment is presently bearing e-Khata No.15020020200322469 in the records of Singanayakanahalli Gram Panchayath, Bangalore North and the apartment is bounded on: East: Shaft ATT, Apartment No.1154 in Level-15/Fourteenth Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. West: Open towards Open Space at Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. South: Staircase/Corridor in Level-15/Fourteenth Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'.

b. 630.87 Sq. Ft. (58.61 Sq. Mtrs.) of undivided share, right, title, interest, and ownership of land in Schedule 'A' Property.

ITEM NO. 4

a. All that Residential Apartment bearing No. 1083 on Level - 8/Seventh Floor situated in Tower - 1 in the Project viz., 'Prestige Royale Gardens', developed on Schedule 'A' Property and measuring 1262 Sq. Ft., of carpet area and 443 Sq. Ft., of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use and totally measuring 1705 Sq. Ft., of super built-up area, with right to use One Covered Car Parking Space in the Basement/Stilt Floor and the apartment is presently bearing e-Khata No.15020020200322326 in the records of Singanayakanahalli Gram Panchayath, Bangalore North and the apartment is bounded on: East: Shaft ATT, Apartment No.1084 in Level-8/Seventh Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. West: Open towards Open Space at Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. North: Open towards Open Space at Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. South: Staircase/Corridor in Level-8/Seventh Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'.

b. 630.87 Sq. Ft. (58.61 Sq. Mtrs.) of undivided share, right, title, interest, and ownership of land in Schedule 'A' Property.

ITEM NO. 5

a. All that Residential Apartment bearing No. 1141 on Level - 14/Thirteenth Floor situated in Tower - 1 in the Project viz., 'Prestige Royale Gardens', developed on Schedule 'A' Property and measuring 923 Sq. Ft., of carpet area and 381 Sq. Ft., of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use and totally measuring 1304 Sq. Ft., of super built-up area, with right to use One Covered Car Parking Space in the Basement/Stilt Floor and the apartment is presently bearing e-Khata No.15020020200322446 in the records of Singanayakanahalli Gram Panchayath, Bangalore North and the apartment is bounded on: East: Apartment No.1145 in Level-14/Thirteenth Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. West: Lift ATT, Apartment No.1142 in Level-14/Thirteenth Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. North: Corridor in Level-14/Thirteenth Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. South: Open towards Open Space at Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'.

b. 482.44 Sq. Ft. (44.82 Sq. Mtrs.) of undivided share, right, title, interest, and ownership of land in Schedule 'A' Property.

ITEM NO. 6

a. All that Residential Apartment bearing No. 1131 on Level - 13/Twelfth Floor situated in Tower - 1 in the Project viz., 'Prestige Royale Gardens', developed on Schedule 'A' Property and measuring 923 Sq. Ft., of carpet area and 381 Sq. Ft., of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use and totally measuring 1304 Sq. Ft., of super built-up area, with right to use One Covered Car Parking Space in the Basement/Stilt Floor and the apartment is presently bearing e-Khata No.15020020200322427 in the records of Singanayakanahalli Gram Panchayath, Bangalore North and the apartment is bounded on: East: Apartment No.1138 in Level-13/Twelfth Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. West: Lift ATT, Apartment No.1132 in Level-13/Twelfth Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. North: Corridor in Level-13/Twelfth Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. South: Open towards Open Space at Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'.

b. 482.44 Sq. Ft. (44.82 Sq. Mtrs.) of undivided share, right, title, interest, and ownership of land in Schedule 'A' Property.

ITEM NO. 7

a. All that Residential Apartment bearing No. 14104 on Level - 10/Ninth Floor situated in Tower - 14 of the Marketing Plan (Tower - 9 of the Sanction Plan) in the Project viz., 'PRESTIGE ROYALE GARDENS', developed on Schedule 'A' Property and measuring 923 Sq. Ft., of carpet area and 381 Sq. Ft., of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use and totally measuring 1304 Sq. Ft., of super built-up area, with right to use One Covered Car Parking Space in the Basement/Stilt Floor and the apartment is presently bearing e-Khata No.15020020200322137 in the records of Singanayakanahalli Gram Panchayath, Bangalore North and the apartment is bounded on: East: Corridor in Level-10/Ninth Floor of Tower-14 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. North: Apartment No.14105 in Level-10/Ninth Floor of Tower-14 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. South: Lift ATT, Apartment No.14103 in Level-10/Ninth Floor of Tower-14 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'.

b. 482.44 Sq. Ft. (44.82 Sq. Mtrs.) of undivided share, right, title, interest, and ownership of land in Schedule 'A' Property.

ITEM NO. 8

a. All that Residential Apartment bearing No. 1063 on Level - 6/Fifth Floor situated in Tower-1 in the Project viz., 'Prestige Royale Gardens', developed on Schedule 'A' Property and measuring 1262 Sq. Ft., of carpet area and 443 Sq. Ft., of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use and totally measuring 1705 Sq. Ft., of super built-up area, with right to use One Covered Car Parking Space in the Basement/Stilt Floor and the apartment is presently bearing e-Khata No.15020020200322281 in the records of Singanayakanahalli Gram Panchayath, Bangalore North and the apartment is bounded on: East: Shaft ATT, Apartment No. 1064 in Level-6/Fifth Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. West: Open towards Open Space at Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. South: Staircase/Corridor in Level-6/Fifth Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'.

b. 630.87 sq ft (58.61 sq mtrs) of undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership of land in Schedule 'A' Property.

ITEM NO. 9

a. All that Residential Apartment bearing No. 1043 on Level - 4/Third Floor situated in Tower - 1 in the Project viz., 'Prestige Royale Gardens', developed on Schedule 'A' Property and measuring 1262 Sq. Ft., of carpet area and 443 Sq. Ft., of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use and totally measuring 1705 Sq. Ft., of super built-up area, with right to use One Covered Car Parking Space in the Basement/Stilt Floor and the apartment is presently bearing e-Khata No.15020020200322235 in the records of Singanayakanahalli Gram Panchayath, Bangalore North and the apartment is bounded on: East: Shaft ATT, Apartment No. 1044 in Level-4/Third Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. West: Open towards Open Space at Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. North: Open towards Open Space at Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. South: Staircase/Corridor in Level-4/Third Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'.

b. 630.87 Sq. Ft. (58.61 Sq. Mtrs.) of undivided share, right, title, interest, and ownership of land in Schedule 'A' Property.

ITEM NO. 10

a. All that Residential Apartment bearing No. 1043 on Level - 4/Third Floor situated in Tower - 1 in the Project viz., 'Prestige Royale Gardens', developed on Schedule 'A' Property and measuring 1262 Sq. Ft., of carpet area and 443 Sq. Ft., of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use and totally measuring 1705 Sq. Ft., of super built-up area, with right to use One Covered Car Parking Space in the Basement/Stilt Floor and the apartment is presently bearing e-Khata No.15020020200322244 in the records of Singanayakanahalli Gram Panchayath, Bangalore North and the apartment is bounded on: East: Lift ATT, Apartment No.1137 in Level-13/Twelfth Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. West: Apartment No. 1131 in Level-13/Twelfth Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. North: Corridor in Level-13/Twelfth Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. South: Open towards Open Space at Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'.

b. 482.44 Sq. Ft. (44.82 Sq. Mtrs.) of undivided share, right, title, interest, and ownership of land in Schedule 'A' Property.

ITEM NO. 10

a. All that Residential Apartment bearing No. 14114 on Level - 11/Tenth Floor situated in Tower - 14 of the Marketing Plan (Tower - 9 of the Sanction Plan) in the Project viz., 'Prestige Royale Gardens', developed on Schedule 'A' Property and measuring 923 Sq. Ft., of carpet area and 381 Sq. Ft., of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use and totally measuring 1304 Sq. Ft., of super built-up area, with right to use One Covered Car Parking Space in the Basement/Stilt Floor and the apartment is presently bearing e-Khata No.15020020200322146 in the records of Singanayakanahalli Gram Panchayath, Bangalore North and the apartment is bounded on: East: Corridor in Level-11/Tenth Floor of Tower-14 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. West: Open towards Open Space at Tower-14 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. North: Apartment No.14115 in Level-11/Tenth Floor of Tower-14 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. South: Lift ATT, Apartment No.14113 in Level-11/Tenth Floor of Tower-14 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'.

b. 482.44 Sq. Ft. (44.82 Sq. Mtrs.) of undivided share, right, title, interest, and ownership of land in Schedule 'A' Property.

ITEM NO. 11

a. All that Residential Apartment bearing No. 1053 on Level - 5/Fourth Floor situated in Tower - 1 in the Project viz., 'Prestige Royale Gardens', developed on Schedule 'A' Property and measuring 1262 Sq. Ft., of carpet area and 443 Sq. Ft., of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use and totally measuring 1705 Sq. Ft., of super built-up area, with right to use One Covered Car Parking Space in the Basement/Stilt Floor and the apartment is presently bearing e-Khata No.15020020200322260 in the records of Singanayakanahalli Gram Panchayath, Bangalore North and the apartment is bounded on: East: Shaft ATT, Apartment No.1054 in Level-5/Fourth Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. West: Open towards Open Space at Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. North: Open towards Open Space at Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. South: Staircase/Corridor in Level-5/Fourth Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'.

b. 630.87 Sq. Ft. (58.61 Sq. Mtrs.) of undivided share, right, title, interest, and ownership of land in Schedule 'A' Property.

ITEM NO. 12

a. All that Residential Apartment bearing No. 14074 on Level - 7/Sixth Floor situated in Tower - 14 of the Marketing Plan (Tower - 9 of the Sanction Plan) in Project viz., 'Prestige Royale Gardens', developed on Schedule 'A' Property measuring 923 sq ft of carpet area and 381 sq ft of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common uses and totally measuring 1304 sq ft of super-built-up area, with right to use One Covered Car Parking Space in the Basement/Stilt Floor and the apartment is presently bearing e-Khata No.15020020200322106 in the records of Singanayakanahalli Gram Panchayath, Bangalore North and the apartment is bounded by: East: Corridor in Level 7/Sixth Floor of Tower-14 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. West: Open towards Open Space at Tower-14 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. North: Apartment No.14075 in Level 7/Sixth Floor of Tower-14 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. South: Lift ATT, Apartment No.14073 in Level-7/Sixth Floor of Tower-14 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'.

b. 482.44 Sq. Ft. (44.82 Sq. Mtrs.) of undivided share, right, title, interest, and ownership of land in Schedule 'A' Property.

ITEM NO. 13

a. All that Residential Apartment bearing No. 1093 on Level - 9/Eighth Floor situated in Tower - 1 in the Project viz., 'Prestige Royale Gardens', developed on Schedule 'A' Property and measuring 1262 Sq. Ft., of carpet area and 443 Sq. Ft., of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use and totally measuring 1705 Sq. Ft., of super built-up area, with right to use One Covered Car Parking Space in the Basement/Stilt Floor and the apartment is presently bearing e-Khata No.15020020200322348 in the records of Singanayakanahalli Gram Panchayath, Bangalore North and the apartment is bounded on: East: Shaft ATT, Apartment No.1094 in Level-9/Eighth Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. West: Open towards Open Space at Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. North: Open towards Open Space at Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. South: Staircase/Corridor in Level-9/Eighth Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'.

b. 630.87 Sq. Ft. (58.61 Sq. Mtrs.) of undivided share, right, title, interest, and ownership of land in Schedule 'A' Property.

ITEM NO. 14

a. All that Residential Apartment bearing No. 14084 on Level - 8/Seventh Floor situated in Tower - 14 of the Marketing Plan (Tower - 9 of the Sanction Plan) in the Project viz., 'Prestige Royale Gardens', developed on Schedule 'A' Property and measuring 923 Sq. Ft., of carpet area and 381 Sq. Ft., of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use and totally measuring 1304 Sq. Ft., of super built-up area, with right to use One Covered Car Parking Space in the Basement/Stilt Floor and the apartment is presently bearing e-Khata No.15020020200322118 in the records of Singanayakanahalli Gram Panchayath, Bangalore North and the apartment is bounded on: East: Corridor in Level-8/Seventh Floor of Tower-14 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. West: Open towards Open Space at Tower-14 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. North: Apartment No.14085 in Level-8/Seventh Floor of Tower-14 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. South: Lift ATT, Apartment No.14083 in Level-8/Seventh Floor of Tower-14 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'.

b. 482.44 Sq. Ft. (44.82 Sq. Mtrs.) of undivided share, right, title, interest, and ownership of land in Schedule 'A' Property.

ITEM NO. 15

a. All that Residential Apartment bearing No. 1135 on Level - 13/Twelfth Floor situated in Tower-1 in the Project viz., 'Prestige Royale Gardens', developed on Schedule 'A' Property and measuring 923 Sq. Ft., of carpet area and 443 Sq. Ft., of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use and totally measuring 1304 Sq. Ft., of super built-up area, with right to use One Covered Car Parking Space in the Basement/Stilt Floor and the apartment is presently bearing e-Khata No.15020020200322439 in the records of Singanayakanahalli Gram Panchayath, Bangalore North and the apartment is bounded by: East: Apartment No.1136 in Level-13/Twelfth Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. West: Shaft ATT, Apartment No.1134 in Level-13/Twelfth Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. North: Open towards Open Space at Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. South: Corridor in Level-13/Twelfth Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'.

b. 482.44 Sq. Ft. (44.82 Sq. Mtrs.) of undivided share, right, title, interest, and ownership of land in Schedule 'A' Property.

ITEM NO. 16

a. All that Residential Apartment bearing No. 1012 on Level - 1/Ground Floor situated in Tower - 1 in the Project viz., 'Prestige Royale Gardens', developed on Schedule 'A' Property and measuring 1262 Sq. Ft., of carpet area and 443 Sq. Ft., of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use and totally measuring 1705 Sq. Ft., of super built-up area, with right to use One Covered Car Parking Space in the Basement/Stilt Floor and the apartment is presently bearing e-Khata No.15020020200322060 in the records of Singanayakanahalli Gram Panchayath, Bangalore North and the apartment is bounded on: East: Lift ATT, Apartment No.1011 in Level-1/Ground Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. West: Open Space at Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. North: Staircase/Corridor in Level-1/Ground Floor of Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. South: Open Space at Tower-1 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'.

b. 630.87 Sq. Ft. (58.61 Sq. Mtrs.) of undivided share, right, title, interest, and ownership of land in Schedule 'A' Property.

ITEM NO. 17

a. All that Residential Apartment bearing No. 14094 on Level - 9/Eighth Floor situated in Tower - 14 of the Marketing Plan (Tower - 9 of the Sanction Plan) in the Project viz., 'Prestige Royale Gardens', developed on Schedule 'A' Property and measuring 923 Sq. Ft., of carpet area and 381 Sq. Ft., of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use and totally measuring 1304 Sq. Ft., of super built-up area, with right to use One Covered Car Parking Space in the Basement/Stilt Floor and the apartment is presently bearing e-Khata No.15020020200324203 in the records of Singanayakanahalli Gram Panchayath, Bangalore North and the apartment is bounded on: East: Corridor in Level-9/Eighth Floor of Tower-14 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. West: Open towards Open Space at Tower-14 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. North: Apartment No.14095 in Level-9/Eighth Floor of Tower-14 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'. South: Lift ATT, Apartment No.14093 in Level-9/Eighth Floor of Tower-14 in 'Prestige Royale Gardens'.

b. 482.44 Sq. Ft. (44.82 Sq. Mtrs.) of undivided share, right, title, interest, and ownership of land in Schedule 'A' Property.

ITEM NO. 18

a. All that

Probe will be fair, SIT will bring Prajwal from Germany: Dr G

MP allegedly exploited over 2,800 women, shot videos on mobile



Congress workers hold demonstrations against JDS MP Prajwal Revanna in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE alleged sex scandal involving Hassan JDS MP Prajwal Revanna and his father, Hole-narsipur MLA HD Revanna, broke out just two days before parts of Karnataka voted on April 26, with obscene videos going viral.

It is alleged that Prajwal sexually exploited over 2,000 women and shot videos on his cellphone. A pen drive of these videos was being circulated by some individuals in Hassan recently.

The Hassan MP filed an FIR against Naveen Gowda of Belur, refuting allegations and claiming that the videos were morphed. He reportedly fled to Frankfurt, Germany, on April 27.

Confirming setting up an SIT to probe the case, Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara promised an impartial probe. "If it is true that the accused has fled the country, the SIT will bring him back. We will not intervene in the investigation. The SIT is headed by a senior officer," he stated.

Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah, in a post on 'X', said the government had decided to form an SIT to probe Revanna's case. "Obscene video clips are circulating in Hassan district, where it appears that women have been sexually assaulted. In this background, the Chairperson of the Women's Commission had written to the government to conduct an SIT investiga-

tion," the post read.

On April 25, chairperson of the state women's panel Nagalakshmi Choudhary had requested CM Siddaramaiah to order a probe into the obscene clips allegedly involving the JDS MP, being circulated on social media.

Choudhary claimed she received a complaint on WhatsApp from one of the victims, who was working at Revanna's house, who told her that she faced a threat to her life. She reportedly asked the other victims to gather courage as the government was with them.

'Prajwal snatched mangalsutra of women'

Women Congress leaders went hammer and tongs against PM Modi for not responding to the Prajwal case. "Modiji, the candidate of your alliance partner JDS has robbed thousands of women. Why are you silent? You should take back your statement that if Congress comes back to power, it will seize the wealth of Hindus and not even spare the 'mangalsutra' of women... You should apologize. We demand that JDS and BJP leaders resign," KPCC general secretary Manjula Naidu said at a press conference.

Another leader, Kavitha Reddy, urged PM Modi to reply, and took a dig that Prajwal flew to Germany without fear of the law of the land. "Members of Deve Gowda's family enjoyed all powers. A family member has flown to Germany without fear of any law. The worry is how to protect the women," she

If guilty, let nephew be punished, says HDK

BENGALURU: Reacting to the allegations made by the Congress against his nephew and Hassan BJP-JDS alliance Lok Sabha candidate Prajwal Revanna, former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy on Saturday said that since the government has constituted an SIT, let there be a probe. "If he is found guilty, he should be punished as per the law of the land," he said. Speaking to reporters, Kumaraswamy, relating a Kannada proverb, "Uppu Thindavaru Neer Kudilebeku" ("one has to face the consequences for their actions"), suggested that the probe be completed first, for the truth to come out. He said that the law of the land will punish whoever commits a mistake. Further, Kumaraswamy said, "Let the truth come out... Whoever has committed any mistake, there is no question of forgiveness. Let the probe be completed and the report to be released, I will speak at that time." He also mentioned that whether it is him or his father, former prime minister HD Deve Gowda, they have always treated women with respect, whenever they came with complaints.

She said. She asked BJP leaders Shobha Karandlaje, Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, R Ashoka, CT Ravi and state BJP chief BY Vijayendra to respond. Hundreds of women workers laid siege to the state DG&IP's office, staged a protest and burnt Prajwal's effigy.

JDS workers upset

People of Hassan are shocked and anxious, and JDS leaders and workers are upset with the alleged videos of Prajwal Revanna. Various sections of society have expressed unhappiness against the sitting MP, and urged the government to probe the case without bias. The guilty should be punished and victims should get justice, they added.

Interestingly, the MP Quarters in Hassan and Revanna's residence in Holenarasipur were deserted.



PM Narendra Modi greets Haveri BJP Lok Sabha candidate Basavaraj Bommai in Davanagere on Sunday | EXPRESS

PM: Rahul against maharajas, rajas, but not nawabs, nizams

NAUSHAD BIJAPUR @Belagavi

PRAISING the contributions of rajas and maharajas in building the country and ensuring the welfare of people, Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Sunday hit out at Congress senior leader Rahul Gandhi for allegedly stating that the royals were tyrants who snatched lands from the people and perpetrated atrocities against them.

"The Congress shehzada is not aware of the contributions of the family of Mysuru maharajas that are proudly remembered by the countrymen even today. Shehzada's statement was to appease a section of people. But at the same time, he has remained tight-lipped about the tyranny of nawabs, nizams, sultans and badshahs. It is unfortunate that he never recalled the atrocities perpetrated by Mughal ruler Aurangzeb, who destroyed and desecrated many temples," he added.

Modi's 30-minute address to the jam-packed rally was a continuous attack on Congress and Rahul Gandhi. "Congress is happy to have a tie-up with political parties that always praised Aurangzeb. It has also forgotten the major role played

by nawabs of yesteryear in dividing the country. On the other hand, it was Gaekwad Maharaj of Baroda who identified the talent of Dr BR Ambedkar and sent him to a foreign university for higher studies. Such was maharajas' role, but Congress leaders never speak of it because of their vote-bank politics," he alleged.

Slamming the Karnataka government, he alleged that law and order in the state has turned worse after Congress came to power. He talked about the atrocity committed against a tribal woman in Belagavi and the alleged brutal murder of a Jain monk in Chikkodi. "The murder of a college girl on a college campus in Hubballi has shocked the nation. When her family demanded justice, Congress was busy with appeasement politics," he charged.

When a bomb exploded at a Bengaluru cafe, the Congress government claimed it was a cylinder blast. The ruling party in the state is indulging in appeasement politics for votes, he alleged. "The entire country has understood that progressive works vanished in states where Congress came to power and that is what is happening in Karnataka today. A

big part of foreign direct investment came from Karnataka when BJP was in power in the state. But now the situation is changing and many development works including roads and irrigation projects are in trouble," he said.

Congress had spread lies about the central government's handling of the Covid crisis. Not only Congress opposed the corona vaccine developed in the country, but also called it BJP vaccine. "Congress feels shame for India's achievements. It insulted the country's democracy by spreading lies about EVMs. Just two days ago, the Supreme Court lambasted Congress for doing so. Congress is conspiring to destroy democracy in the country. You (Congress) should apologise for resorting to such acts," he said.

"Congress says if it wins the election, it would conduct an X-ray of properties, lockers, vehicles, cycles, etc., besides mangalsutras and other valuables worn by women," he said. "These people (Congressmen) would raid every house and acquire people's assets and then redistribute them. Congress is intent on redistributing the country's assets amongst its vote-bank," he said.

'Cong govt cancelled Kisan Samman Nidhi'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"If you have to give, you have to pay 55 per cent tax. For their vote bank, they want to capture your assets," he alleged. In Karnataka, the Congress government has transferred Rs 11,000 crore earmarked for SC/STs to guarantee programmes. The BJP government was giving Rs 4,000 under the Kisan Samman Nidhi. But the Congress government cancelled it and now, only Rs 6,000 is given directly by the Centre. Do Congress people hate farmers, he asked.

He said the ambitious New Education Policy (NEP) has been put on hold, causing injustice to the youth of the state. "Whichever party it is, the future of the youth should not be affected," he said.

LAW AND ORDER DETERIORATED IN STATE AFTER CONG CAME TO POWER: PM

Belagavi/Davanagere: Slamming the Karnataka government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday alleged that law and order in the state has turned worse after Congress came to power. Addressing public rallies, he spoke about the atrocity committed against a tribal woman in Belagavi and the alleged brutal murder of a Jain monk in Chikkodi. "The murder of college girl Neha Hiremath on a college campus in Hubballi has shocked the nation. When her family demanded justice, Congress was busy with appeasement politics," he charged. When a bomb exploded at a Bengaluru cafe, the Congress government claimed it was a cylinder blast. "If there is no law and order, will investments come in? People are worried about their security. Neha's murder is not a common occurrence, but those in power are worried about their vote bank," he alleged. "For the sake of votes, Congress is taking the support of banned PFI, the anti-national organisation that supported terrorism. BJP has banned PFI and has put its leaders behind bars," he said.

Women's commission for stringent action

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

THE government directed the SIT to submit a detailed report through the DG&IGP at the earliest. The women's commission has urged the government to initiate stringent action against the guilty.

The SIT is likely to begin its probe at the MP Quarters on RC Road in Hassan, to record

the statements of the victims if they come forward. The team will also collect the pen drives with the videos and send them to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for further investigation. Sources said the SIT will issue notices to the accused and summon them for the investigation, and also issue a lookout notice for Prajwal Revanna, to record his

statements.

Prajwal and his friends reportedly went to Germany on a seven-day tour on Saturday, after voting concluded for Phase-2 on Friday. Prajwal, grandson of JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda, is the Lok Sabha candidate from Hassan. For the first time, a criminal case has been filed against HD Revanna in his hometown.

Car crashes into checkpoint, injures election official

MYSURU: A CESC official, who was on election duty at a check-post on Hootagalli - KRS Road, near Koorgalli in the district was severely injured after a speeding car crashed into the checkpoint tent around 1 am on Sunday. According to police, Veerabhadrappa, a sub-division junior assistant from the Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC), Kuvempunagar, was deputed at the checkpoint on the outskirts of the city, close to NIE college to monitor the vehicles entering the city. Veerabhadrappa was inside the tent,



with other staff, when the temporary structure was struck by a speeding car that had a Bengaluru registration plate. The vehicle hit Veerabhadrappa, who was sitting on a chair, injuring his right leg. The other staff at the location, who had a narrow escape, immediately rushed the injured Veerabhadrappa to a hospital in Jayalakshmiapuram, where he underwent surgery. Later, his family members said that the surgery was successful, and Veerabhadrappa had been shifted to a ward. VV Puram traffic police station has registered a case and seized the car. However, the driver has fled. ENS



Cong leaders protest against 'inadequate' drought relief

ENS @Bengaluru

CALLING it "inadequate," Congress leaders in the state, led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, staged a protest in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue in Vidhana Soudha on Sunday against the "meagre sum" released as drought relief by the Union Government. The Centre, on Saturday, released Rs 3,498 crore to Karnataka as drought relief against the state's demand of Rs 18,171 crore.

The CM was joined by DyCM DK Shivakumar, AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, ministers Dr G Parameshwara, Ramalinga Reddy, Krishna Byre Gowda, N Chaluvarayaswamy, Dinesh Gundu

Rao, and KH Muniyappa, and MLAs HC Balakrishna, Rizwan Arshad, and others. They accused the Centre of meting out stepmotherly treatment towards Karnataka.

"We are not seeking alms. We are seeking funds for our farmers," Shivakumar said, adding that farmers are also in distress as the Centre failed to increase man-days under MGNREGA from 100 days to 150 days. "We are not asking the Centre to pay for me or Siddaramaiah but for the hardship suffered by the state. But the Centre has failed to respect the federal system," he added. The DyCM said that the state, on its own, is paying Rs 2,000 to each farmer as drought aid.

CONGRESS TREMBLING, GET READY FOR JUNE 4 VICTORY, SAYS MODI

ENS @Davanagere

STATING that the voting percentage of the April 26 election is sending shivers through the Congress party ranks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the Congress is full of confusion and is trying to win at least one seat in the next phase of polls on May 7.

Addressing the public as part of the campaign for the Davanagere and Haveri constituencies, he said the BJP will celebrate in a big way on June 4. He requested the people of Davanagere to keep the 'Davanagere Benne Dosa' ready for the celebration, as BJP is winning with a big margin.

Terming the brand name 'Modi' as a sign of safety and development of the country, he said, "You have seen me for 10 years. Ever since I took the reins, the number of national highways has increased from 25 to 47. Development of Davanagere and Harihar railway stations, speeding up of the Tumakuru-Davanagere direct railway line, providing funds for Davanagere Smart



BJP women leaders felicitate PM Narendra Modi, as he prepares to address a campaign rally, in Davanagere on Sunday | EXPRESS

City, setting up a tech park for Stand-Up India and making new entrepreneurs.

Speaking of his government's achievements, he said "Modi guarantees security. If anyone tries to enter our country for terrorist acts, I will not allow it, instead I will take up a surgical strike against them." Taking the Congress to task, Modi said the Supreme Court has given

the party a slap in the EVM case. "Till now, Congress used to allege that EVMs were responsible for their defeats, now their think-tank is working on what to say after their defeat, as they are going to lose the election. There will be a streetfight between the allies of the Congress."

Modi said he has travelled across Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and from Kashmir to Kaniya-

kumari, and had got a feel of the 2024 election. "The spirit of 2024 is different. People have understood Modi's achievement, observed Modi's attitude, work done in 10 years. This time, women and children have also emerged as Modi's armour," he said.

He appealed to people to vote for the country's development on May 7 by voting for Gayatri Siddeshwara and Basavaraj Bommai. Former CM Bommai, MP GM Siddeshwar, Gayatri Siddeshwar and others took part.

Modi guarantees security. If anyone tries to enter our country for terrorist acts, I will not allow it, instead I will take up a surgical strike against them — Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

KILLER SUMMER

Heatwave claims 2 lives in Kerala, hotter days ahead

Maximum temp in some dists up by 3-5°C

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@T'Puram/Kochi

THE punishing heat, which is keeping Kerala on its toes, is likely to continue for the rest of the week, even as two persons succumbed to sunstroke in Palakkad and Kannur over the past two days. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued heatwave alert in Palakkad, Thrissur and Kollam on Monday based on the persistent high temperature in these regions. While Palakkad - where heatwave conditions prevail - remained the hottest place in the state with the maximum temperature hovering above 41°C, mercury levels are expected to cross 40°C in Thrissur and Kollam.

According to the forecast, the maximum temperature in Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Kozhikode and Kannur will be 38°C, while it will be a degree less in Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Malappuram and Kasaragod districts till May 2. In Thiruvananthapuram district, the temperature can reach up to 36°C. According to the met department, the maximum temperature in these districts are 3-5°C higher than normal.

Meanwhile, the sweltering heat is taking a toll on people as a 90-year-old woman died due to heatstroke in Palakkad on Saturday. Paramedu Nallambarikkal Lakshmi, a resident of Elappully, was

found lying unconscious in the Aliyar canal on Saturday evening with sunburn marks on her body. The postmortem examination on Sunday confirmed the cause of death was heatstroke.

In another incident, UM Vishwanathan, a 53-year-old resident of Pandakkal in Mahe, who was under treatment at a private hospital in Kannur after suffering sunstroke, died on Sunday morning. Vishwanathan reportedly suffered sunstroke while digging a well in a field at Nedubram.

On Sunday, Kottayam reported a record-breaking maximum temperature of 38.5°C, the highest ever in April for the district. Similarly, Alappuzha matched its highest maximum temperature for April since 1987, hitting 38°C, the met department said.

"The exacerbation of heatwave and heatstroke conditions can be attributed to the combined effects of anthropogenic global warming and heightened urbanisation," said Dr S Abhilash, director, Advanced Centre for Atmospheric Radar Research, Cusat. "Kerala is currently experiencing rapid and extensive urbanisation, which may significantly contribute to the exacerbation of the severe and unusual heat conditions in the region," he said. The maximum temperature in Palakkad has risen over 5°C above the normal temperature, in the past three days.

"Hot and uncomfortable weather is very likely over Kerala, excluding hilly areas, with the maximum temperature likely to surpass the 95th percentile of climatological values in certain locations during the next 24 hours. Relative humidity in the range 55-65%, particularly in coastal and interior areas, further contributes to the discomfort caused by high temperatures and humidity," said the IMD.



Fake accounts used to target women on Insta

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

TWO separate cases are registered in the city about fake Instagram account handlers targeting young girls and blackmailing them with fake obscene images.

The Amruthahalli police have registered a case against a person who allegedly shared nude pictures of a second PU student with her family members and friends. Police said that someone from her friends must have hacked her old Instagram account and sent a request to the girl from her old Instagram account. Upon accepting the request, the accused sent morphed obscene photos of the girl's mother. The miscreant, who first demanded money from the girl for not uploading the pictures online, started demanding for her nude pictures instead.

Fearing the consequences, the girl reportedly shared her nude photos with the accused. Later the accused shared the photos with friends and family of the girl. The police suspects a personal enmity between the girl and the accused, who is yet to be caught.

In another case a woman has registered a complaint with the High Grounds police. In her complaint she accused a person of creating obscene pictures of her, and demanding Rs 5,000, threatening to upload the photos on social media. Based on the woman's complaint, the police are on the lookout for the accused.

Kerala Cong moves EC, alleges lapses in polling

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@T'Puram

LEADER of Opposition V D Satheesan has urged the Election Commission of India (ECI) into the "serious lapses" in the conduct of the elections in Kerala on April 26. In his complaint, he alleged that the "free and fair" election did not take place.

Highlighting the delay in voting that led to polling continuing late into the night at some booths, Satheesan, in his letter, rued that thousands re-

turned home without casting votes owing to the inordinate delay amid the adverse weather. "Elections in Kerala were grossly mismanaged, creating significant delays in many booths."

Interval between subsequent votes in many booths saw undue delay, apparently forcing many voters to wait up to four-and-a-half hours for their turn. Many returned after standing in queue for hours at numerous booths in the blazing heat. Some could not vote despite arriving at their respective booth before 6pm," Satheesan wrote.



their weight-bearing capacity. "Banana fibre is used because of its high tensile strength. A hardener and chemical solutions such as calcium carbonate and sodium hydroxide were incorporated into the composite which is made by mixing two materials, to enhance its resistance, tensile strength, and thickness," Amit Kumar, one of the four students of MVJ College of Engineering, who created the tiles explained.

"The tiles are constructed by stacking up to seven sheets on top of each other. These sheets are positioned at angles of 0

degrees, 30 degrees, and 60 degrees to ensure tight packing using a vacuum before the resin coating is applied," Amit told TNIE. "The process begins by soaking the banana fibre in a solution of sodium hydroxide, followed by the application of the hardener. Calcium Carbonate is incorporated in varying percentages, ranging from 0% to 20%, to enhance the hardness of the tile. Additional tests are conducted to measure water resistance, ensuring that the tiles remain waterproof after being coated with resin."

The entire process, includ-

ing material selection, fabrication of the composite material, and testing of mechanical properties, typically spans approximately two months, he added. Amit, Karthik, Parasanna, and Pruthviraja, all final year Mechanical Engineering students, who made these unique tiles said that the tiles need to go through various other tests before they can be commercially sold.



Samples of the banana tiles in different stages of the tile-making process.

Uncleji, Naveen-babu have given Odisha PANN: RaGa

BIJAY CHAKI @Salipur

SENIOR Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday came down heavily on the BJD and BJP, alleging they have been running the government in partnership. They have looted the state and have given the people 'PANN', he stated.

Launching the Congress election campaign with a well-attended rally at Salipur in Cuttack district, Rahul said though the BJD and BJP are fighting the polls against each other, actually they are working together. "Call it a partnership or marriage, both the BJD and BJP are together. Uncle-ji (in an apparent reference to the prime minister) and Naveen-babu have given the people PANN, meaning Pandian (Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's former secretary VK Pandian who quit IAS to join BJD), Amit Shah, Narendra Modi, Naveen Patnaik."

They have looted your wealth and handed it over a select few," he said. He stated that while Prime Minister Narendra Modi runs a government for 22-25 billionaires, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik heads a dispensation which works for a select few. The state has been handed over to Adani, he alleged. Rahul said, the same thing was seen in Telangana where the Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) used to work with the BJP. "They also used to run the government in partnership and worked for the benefit of a



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at a public meeting for Lok Sabha elections, in Cuttack district on Sunday | EXPRESS

Gandhi's visit will have no impact: BJD

Bhubaneswar: Even as former Congress president Rahul Gandhi launched a stinging attack on the state government on Sunday while launching the party's campaign at Salipur, the BJD maintained that it will have no impact on the electoral fortunes of Odisha Congress. Sasmit Patra, RS member and national spokesperson of the party told mediapersons that Gandhi's visit will, however, surely motivate the demotivated Congress cadre which has been losing elections consistently. From that perspective his visit to Odisha could be beneficial to the Congress, he added.

chosen few. The people realised this and BRS was ousted from power by the Congress," he said.

Alleging that there has been rampant corruption during the BJD government in the state, Rahul said, "₹9 lakh crore have been looted through the mining scam while there has been land grab of more

than ₹20,000 crore. Besides, the plantation scam would be of ₹15,000 crore and there were also many other scams," he said.

The former Congress president assured that as soon as his party's governments would be formed at the Centre and state, the money will be returned to the people.

Transferring power to outsider? No able leader in Odisha asks Nadda

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

WITH the Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) making Odia Asmita (pride) as a major plank to beat the ruling BJD for its over reliance on a bureaucracy turned politician, BJP's national president JP Nadda went a step further claiming that an outsider is now groomed to take over the mantle of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Addressing a massive election rally called Vijaya Sankalp Samabesh at Ambapua near Berhampur in Ganjam district, Nadda, without naming anyone, said a conspiracy is being hatched to 'import an

outsider to run the government in Odisha'.

"Don't you have any capable Odia leader to manage the affairs of the state? It is matter of great concern that efforts are on to transfer the power to an outsider. Stay alert. I am cautioning you," Nadda said.

The BJP has become more aggressive on its Odia pride narrative after Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's decision to contest the upcoming polls from two Assembly seats. Union Home Minister Amit Shah during his April 25 visit to the state had told party workers that the Chief Minister will leave one seat to his political

BJP chief's roadshow in Nizampet today



J P Nadda

Hyderabad: BJP national president JP Nadda is scheduled to take part in campaign events for the LS polls in Telangana today. On Monday, Nadda is expected to reach Hyderabad and take part in a roadshow in Nizampet of Malkajigiri constituency. Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah is also expected to visit Telangana on May 1. Party sources said that apart from Shah, Modi and Nadda, including CMs of BJP-ruled states will take part in the campaign.

heir obviously referring to V K Pandian. Launching a tirade against the BJD government, the BJP chief said corruption and Babu Raj are the hall mark of the ruling party. While tap water supply under Jal Jeevan Mission has been eluding to a

large number of households in the state, the state government is busy awarding contract of drinking water supply to blacklisted contractors from outside Odisha.

"As many as 160 chit fund companies have looted more

than Rs 32,000 crore from around 20 lakh people of the state but the government is doing nothing to recover the money. Will you allow such a corrupt government to continue? If you want to see good government like the one provided by Narendra Modi government remove BJD and bring BJP to power," he said.

Highlighting the contribution of the Prime Minister for Odisha in the last ten years, Nadda said, "Modi ji has never discriminated the state despite the fact that it is ruled by an opposition government. But the condition of the state has not changed due to massive corruption."

EXPRESS READ

Flyer nabbed with 800gm gold in underwear

Bengaluru: A flyer from Singapore was caught by the Air Intelligence Unit of the Customs on Thursday in his bid to smuggle gold into the airport. The yellow metal was concealed inside his underwear in the form of paste inside a white cover. A total of 799.37 grams of gold, valued at Rs 55.15 lakh was seized. Sources at the Customs department stated that the passenger Suresh Maini hails from Jafferhanpet in Chennai. He arrived by an IndiGo flight (No. 6E 1006) from Singapore on Thursday (April 25) around 7.30 am. After extraction, the paste became a single gold bar. The passenger has been arrested and further investigation is on.

Bid to destroy me and my party, claims EP

Kannur: Under a cloud after revelations of his meeting with BJP's Kerala prabhar Prakash Javadekar, senior CPM leader E P Jayarajan on Sunday sought to clear theair, putting all the blame on the BJP and the media for hatching a conspiracy against him and his party. "An attempt is being made to destroy me and the CPM. The BJP is orchestrating a conspiracy. And the media here joined them without bothering to check the facts," he told a press meet in Kannur. "Now news channels are telling me that CPM is going to expel me. Did any of them checked with my party leadership on this? Media is fabricating stories against me. They even reported that I'm leaving CPM to join BJP."

Students make banana tiles seven times stronger than ceramic

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

EACH part of the banana plant is used for its many benefits, and now again, engineering students have found a unique way to use banana fibre to craft tiles. These tiles made of banana fibre are nearly seven times stronger than ceramic tiles, and are waterproof due to their resin coating.

While ceramic tiles can withstand pressures of up to 1,300 newtons, these tiles made using banana fibres can withstand 7,500 newtons and register at 52.37% megapascals in flexural tests, which explains

● Says saffron party against reservation, Cong believes in development ● Negates PM's allegation that GOP insulted Shivaji, Kittur Rani Chennamma

SIDDU ACCUSES BJP OF PLAYING DIRTY POLITICS FOR VOTES

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Athani

THE BJP is engaged in dirty communal politics just to please voters for the sake of power, alleged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday, adding that the Congress only believes in doing development works to garner voters' support to win elections.

Addressing a campaign meet in support of Congress candidate for Chikkodi Lok Sabha Priyanka Jarkiholi, at Ugar Khurd in Belagavi district, Siddaramaiah claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been giving fake assurances and delivering "sub-standard speeches" to please voters. His speeches are more on communal hatred and less about development works, he alleged.

Siddaramaiah also stated that Modi's allegations that Congress has insulted Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Kittur Rani Chennamma were not true. "It is me who started Rani Chennamma Jayanti celebrations and established the Sangolli Rayanna Memorial at Nandag in Khanapur," he said.

The CM added that the BJP is always against reservations. "When Congress government imposed reservation during local body elections, the BJP had strongly opposed it," he said, adding that the Congress has assured 25 guarantees if it comes to power, which include loan waiver for farmers, depositing Rs 1 lakh in the bank accounts of every woman, and more. He assured that the work on the Basaveshwara Irriga-



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah addresses a campaign meeting in Ugar Khurd, Belagavi district, on Sunday | EXPRESS

tion Scheme at Kagwad would be completed at the earliest.

Siddaramaiah also assured the people that the state government will approach Maharashtra and convince it to release 2 tmcft of water into River Krishna and resolve all other issues. "BJP MP Annasaheb Jolle has not carried out any development works during his tenure as Lok Sabha member, nor has he spoken about any issues in connection with Karnataka or the Chikkodi Lok Sabha constituency in Parliament till date," he further claimed. Siddaramaiah called upon people to vote in favour of the Congress for the overall development of their constituency.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar challenged Modi that if he had the ability, he should implement welfare schemes and reservations for the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the states ruled by BJP, which Congress has implemented in Karnataka. He alleged that the Union Government displayed stepmotherly treatment while providing funds for drought relief work in Karnataka recently. He claimed that "during the Covid pandemic, when BJP MP Suresh Angadi passed away in Delhi, the Centre showed little interest in arranging a special flight to bring back Angadi's body to his hometown".

When Congress government imposed reservation during local body elections, the BJP had strongly opposed it... the Congress has assured 25 guarantees if it comes to power

Siddaramaiah,
Chief Minister

CM lambasts Modi's 'Cong insulted kings, queens of India' allegation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Belagavi

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for saying that the Congress and its leader, Rahul Gandhi, insulted great kings and queens of India like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Kittur Rani Chennamma.

"Modi has said a big lie during his speech in Belagavi today. Every time he comes to Belagavi, he lies. He has now said a new lie that we have insulted Chhatrapati Shivaji and Kittur Rani Channamma," the CM said after inaugurating the Prajadhvani-2 convention in Belagavi while campaigning for Congress candidate Mrinal Hebbalkar.

Mrinal is the son of Women and Child Welfare Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar.

"It was our government that celebrated the birth anniversary of Rani Channamma for the first time. We are the people who see Shivaji Maharaj with respect. We have constituted the Sangolli Rayanna Development Authority. Therefore, people should not believe in the half-baked lies of Modi," Siddaramaiah said, alleging that the PM only spread lies wherever he went in the last 10 years and



Local Congress leaders garland Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar in Belagavi on Sunday | EXPRESS

failed to fulfill even one promise he had made to the people.

The CM also took on the BJP leaders over the guarantee schemes of his government. "First, they insulted the beneficiaries. Now, they are claiming that the guarantees will be discontinued after the elections," he said, adding that the guarantees will not be stopped for the next five years. "We have already reserved the funds required to implement the guarantees for the next year," he said.

He further appealed to the voters to consider him their candidate and make Congress win with a huge majority. "Let us defeat Jagadish Shettar in Belagavi and send him back home," the CM said.

Guarantees helped poor: DKS

Deputy CM DK Shivkumar said that the guarantees have helped the people who were in a crisis after the Covid-19 pandemic. "Guarantee schemes have helped people. No woman has gone down the wrong path using this money," he said, targeting state JDS chief and former CM HD Kumaraswamy.

Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar said that Shettar's contribution to Belagavi was zero. He shifted IITs and IT-BT companies to Hubballi from Belagavi, she alleged.

PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi said that it was the Congress that stood with the people when the Britishers looted the country.

Srinivasa Prasad ill, hospitalised

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Mysuru

CHAMARAJANAGAR incumbent BJP MP and veteran politician V Srinivasa Prasad is under observation in the ICU of a Bengaluru-based private hospital, as his health condition has deteriorated.

The 76-years-old Prasad has been admitted at a private hospital on Old Airport Road in Bengaluru, where he is undergoing treatment in the intensive care unit. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah visited him and spoke to his family members to get an update on his health condition.

Pointing out that Prasad had been undergoing regular health check-ups at the hospital for the past two years, the hospital in a statement said that he was admitted on April 22, after he suffered swelling in his legs and had difficulty in breathing. He was immediately put in the ICU for treatment and is being closely monitored by nephrology, critical care and other specialists. "In view of his multiple medical issues, he is on many supports and medications to maintain his health and will continue to remain in ICU," said a statement from the hospital.

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Groom gave away 750 cards

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ON receiving information about the message on the invitation card, election officials visited Ravi's house on April 14 and he told them that he got the invitation cards printed before the model code of conduct came into effect.

Ravi told them that he had distributed around 750 invitations and gave in writing not to consider it as a violation. After polling on April 26, election officials filed a complaint with the Uppinangady police and the person who printed the invitation card was also questioned.

Transgender voter turnout less than 25% in state

KARTHIK KK @Mysuru

AMIDST the vibrant tapestry of Karnataka's electoral enthusiasm, a sobering statistic casts a shadow of concern — the transgender community's turnout at polling booths. Despite 3,067 voters registered under the 'other' category, only 667 exercised their franchise across 14 Lok Sabha constituencies, marking a starkly low turnout of 21.74 per cent.

Efforts by the State Voter Empowerment Programme (SVEEP) committee and deputy commissioner's offices to sensitise and engage with transgender activists and community leaders have been valiant, but fall short of addressing the core issues.

In the picturesque Mysuru division, encompassing Mysuru, Mandya, and Chamarajanagar Lok Sabha constituencies, the turnout lags at less than 25 per cent as well. Specifically, in the Mysuru-Kodagu constituency, out of 184 registered voters, only 38 cast their ballots.

Similarly, in Mandya, with 168 registered voters, only 44 participated, while in Chamarajanagar, out of 107 registered voters, a mere 31 exercised their franchise.

While officials highlight their extensive sensitisation programmes and efforts to instill confidence among transgender voters, the turnout at polling booths remains a challenge.

Pranathi Prakash, a transgender activist from Mysuru, said that earlier, there have been problems of people getting voter IDs with 'Others' mentioned on them, but now it has been resolved. "Compared to the previous years, the turnout is good and in the days to come, more sensitisation would help increase the turnout," she said.

Meanwhile, another transgender, a registered voter from NR Mohalla, on condition of anonymity, said, "We often face the threat of discrimination at the polling stations, which has been pointed out as the reason for the low voter turnout."

furnish the necessary status report on April 16, the next date of hearing.

The order was passed after hearing a private complaint by TJ Abraham, alleging that no concrete steps were taken by the Lokayukta police on his complaint filed before them in October 2022.

HK Patil, Amplus KN Solar Pvt Ltd and former energy minister V Sunil Kumar are among 24 respondents in the private complaint.

The court noted that the investigating agency has concluded that there is no material to proceed against Patil now. But it has stated it has not examined him completely and if any material is found later, it would be placed before the

KC Reddy's great-granddaughter eyes politics

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @Bengaluru

AMID the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, two young women with strong political backgrounds differed in their opinion of making the political plunge.

Twenty-year-old Samyukta KC Reddy, the great-granddaughter of the state's first Chief Minister, KC Reddy, came from Pune to Bengaluru to exercise her franchise last Friday. Samyukta, studying law at Symbiosis International University, voted for the first time at Aramane Nagara under Bangalore North Lok Sabha constituency.

"I think at present education

as a qualification for politics is not present. I have a good background and can contribute to policymaking," Samyukta told TNIE, expressing her interest in joining politics.

On the 33% quota for women in legislatures, Samyukta said it will bridge the gap in male-dominated politics, giving ample opportunity to women. "My ideology is that the spirit of democracy should continue in a diversified population. Some social welfare initiatives are required for the people," she said. Apart from active politics, she has an inter-

est in contributing to good governance and policy. Samyukta is the daughter of KC Shrikar and Vasanatha Kavitha. Shrikar is the son of KC Srinivas and the grandson of KC Reddy.

Meanwhile, the daughter of DyCM and KPCC president DK Shivakumar, Aishwarya, who voted at Doddaballapur under the Bengaluru Rural segment, said that politics is not her cup of tea. Her uncle and sitting MP, DK Suresh, is Congress candidate from Bangalore Rural.

"Today's vote is about the country... if the country grows,

any person, including me, will grow. I have no intention of joining politics, as my family members are there. I am an educator, and I enjoy it. I want to become the leader of the education sector. Everyone needs to work in different fields to make India proud and I am working in that field that is the need of the hour," she told reporters. Aishwarya is the governing council member of the Global Academy of Technology for which her father DK Shivakumar is the chairman.

Aishwarya is the wife of Amartya Hegde, son of Cafe Coffee Day founder Siddhartha Hegde, and grandson of former Karnataka CM SM Krishna.



Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka, along with other BJP leaders, holds up empty coconut shells and posters containing statistics of the funds released by the earlier UPA government to the state, in Bengaluru on Sunday. | EXPRESS

COCONUT SHELL STIR

Poll booth official collects phone numbers of voters, violates rules

BENGALURU: Polling officials were collecting numbers of those who had come to cast their vote in Shantinagar in the Bangalore Central Lok Sabha constituency during Phase 2 of polling on April 26, complained a group of voters. One of them said, "Misusing the polling booth at the Shantinagar ward, a Section officer, who was in charge of polling duties, had asked polling station staffers to collect mobile numbers in addition to signatures of every voter. When questioned, he started blaming higher election officers. When it was pointed out that taking the mobile number of each and every voter has not been mandated in any circular, he ordered the staff to stop collecting the numbers." Mr Devasahayam, a former IAS officer who is part of the Constitution Conduct Group, said this is not part of the instructions as per rules. "This is utter nonsense and it cannot be collected and what will they do with it? Make it part of their data bank," he asked. When contacted, Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka, Manoj Kumar Meena admitted that the polling booth official was definitely overstepping his brief.

Women voters deciding factor in Ballari seat

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR
@Ballari

FOR the undivided Ballari Schedule Tribe (ST) reserved Lok Sabha constituency, women will be the deciding factor:

Of the total electorate of 18,77,751 in the constituency, women voters are 9,51,522 and men voters 9,25,961. The constituency also has 53,169 first-time and 24,841 specially abled voters. Though the numbers are high, there is not a single woman MLA from the eight Assembly constituencies in this Lok Sabha segment.

Both Congress candidate E Tukaram and BJP's B Sriramulu are trying to woo women voters. Sriramulu has been campaigning on the central government programmes aimed at women, like Ujjwal, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and women empowerment.

At the same time, Tukaram is confident that the five guarantees introduced by the state government, including Gruha Lakshmi, Shakti and Gruha Jyoti, will work in his favour.

A political analyst, Shridhar Reddy, said that the constituency has around 26,000 more women voters as compared to men voters and they will have a big say in who will win the polls.



Akhilesh Yadav, SP president

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

SC ORDER STEP FORWARD IN ENSURING CREDIBILITY OF ELECTION PROCESS

THE Supreme Court's judgement on cross-verification of votes recorded in the electronic voting machines (EVMs) with voter verified paper audit trail (VVPAT) slips is a step forward in strengthening the credibility of EVMs. The order has come in response to a batch of petitions drawing the apex court's attention to the possibility of manipulating the EVMs and seeking its intervention to improve the process.

The court has, in its order, taken forward its decisions in two earlier cases—*Subramanian Swamy vs Election Commission of India* and *N Chandrababu Naidu & Others vs Union of India & Another*. In its decision on the *Subramanian Swamy* case, the court introduced VVPATs saying "paper trail is an indispensable requirement of free and fair elections". In the *Chandrababu Naidu* order, it increased the cross-verification of votes recorded by EVMs with VVPAT slips to five randomly selected polling stations per assembly segment of every constituency. In its latest judgment, the SC has taken the verification process even further by ruling that after the results are announced in a parliamentary election, if the candidates who stand at No 2 and No 3 have any doubts about the result, they can demand 5 per cent of the EVMs per assembly segment in a parliamentary constituency to be verified for any tampering or modification. It has also ordered that the 'symbol loading units' be sealed and secured after the process is over, and the same be stored for 45 days after the results are announced for cross verification.

While rejecting the demand for 100 percent cross-verification of VVPAT slips with the votes recorded in the EVMs and giving access to voters to the VVPAT slips, it has left the option for 100 % cross-verification to the Election Commission of India asking it to examine the possibility of introducing an electronic machine for counting the VVPAT slips. The ECI had opposed 100% tallying saying the manual process would be time consuming.

The apex court has heard several petitions on EVMs over the years filed by political parties and organisations working for electoral reforms but appellants have failed to put up a cogent case for going back to ballot paper. The EVMs have ensured higher voter participation and there has been no proof of tampering. All political parties need to be mindful that their repeated questioning of the EVMs may create doubts among the voters about the integrity of the electoral process.

NEED HOLISTIC APPROACH TO GENDER DYSPHORIA

AS the LGBTQIA+ community has gained broader acceptance in most of the Western world, a backlash against the community too has grown, fuelled by conservatives and a section of feminists in the US and the UK. A great deal of this backlash has come to be focused on trans persons and, in recent years, on health services provided to children who identify as transgender. In the US, close to half of the states now limit or ban access of adolescents to gender affirming care. Gender affirming care includes mental health services, access to puberty blockers (that delay the onset of puberty), access to hormone replacement therapy and, in rare cases for minors, surgical procedures. The issue has taken on political dimensions that have often centred parents' rights—and political rhetoric—in the discourse rather than the needs or rights of the child. Misinformation is rife in India too have heard of the overblown stories of children now identifying as cats and schools providing them litter boxes. The discourse is toxic.

It is in this environment that a four-year review of gender identity services provided by the National Health Services in the UK has been released. The report, authored by highly respected paediatrician Dr Hilary Cass, has said that there is no good quality evidence on the long-term outcomes of interventions used to treat gender-related distress. Specifically, the report says evidence in favour of the current medical approach in addressing the needs of children with gender dysphoria is weak. England and Scotland have now effectively banned the use of puberty blockers, as have a few other European countries. The report calls for a holistic approach to treating children with gender dysphoria and better quality research. However, critics have raised concerns that the report does not consider the context in which care is provided in the UK—most care is available only after several years waiting, for one. Similarly, concerns have been raised about the weaponisation of the report against the trans community, which only creates more barriers to access care that was barely accessible to begin with.

While these are nascent discussions in India, where trans persons still struggle to access healthcare services, education and jobs, they still provide an insight into how to address sensitive issues, how care could be provided, including for children, and how lives of trans persons must be centred in issues pertaining to their lives and well being.

QUICK TAKE

A RARE REFLECTION

A sitting high court judge has made a rare public recanting of his own judgement. During a recent lecture at the Madras Bar Association, Justice N Anand Venkatesh criticised one of his own rulings from 2018, penned barely a month after he had been elevated to the high court. He found fault with a couple of juristic principles he went by in a land dispute. The justice said reading seniors' writing and peer conversations helped him see his own folly. Such a critical look in the mirror is a healthy trend, especially in an era the judiciary is at times seen as being too touchy about criticism.

ELECTIONS are the ultimate exercise of democratic choice. India's 97 crore voters have to make a choice between two contrasting visions of development: the stability and growth offered by the BJP under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi versus the chaos and divisiveness offered by the leaderless INDI Alliance. It's a choice that matters: The former shall illuminate the path to prosperity and peace; the latter shall send us back to a time of scarcity and schism.

When the first elections were successfully held in 1951-52, it was inconceivable to our erstwhile colonial masters that a largely illiterate and poor nation could pull off universal adult franchise without any prior experience and no infrastructure for 17.3 crore electors. As is its wont, India defied the odds. Since then, an implicit faith in the power of elections has empowered the historically disempowered, enabling them to shape their own destinies.

It is this faith that is being exercised once again in 2024 against the backdrop of two different visions. The BJP vision, encompassed in its Sankalp Patra, offers a comprehensive roadmap for development, building on the last ten years of high-trajectory growth. It is codified in the 'politics of saturation', where emphasis is given to delivering basic infrastructure, providing food security, ensuring energy affordability, transitioning to a green economy and enabling digital connectivity and financial inclusion. In this vision, the claim to public resources rests not only with one community, but all 1.4 billion Indians.

This is the philosophy of '*Antyodaya se Sarvodaya*'—it is not mere welfarism where public resources are considered expenditure. No, they are an investment into the well-being of Indians. Consider the construction of more than 11 crore toilets under the Swachh Bharat Mission and 12 crore tap water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission and AMRUT. These remarkable achievements have meant Indian households have saved nearly ₹60,000 annually due to better health outcomes. Through the Ayushman Bharat Mission, out-of-pocket expenditure on health has reduced by 25% in the past 10 years.

There has been a paradigmatic shift in governance. From the days of policy paralysis, we are now seeing an era of transformative policies that has resulted in 25 crore people exiting multidimensional poverty since 2014. Nearly 4 crore houses will have been constructed under the PM Awas Yojana, with another 3 crore announced for Modi's third term. More than 51 crore Jan Dhan accounts have been

One must consider the credibility of the two sides. One offers ironclad guarantees based on robust performance, while the other offers vague platitudes that rest on a legacy

THE CHOICE BEFORE INDIA'S ELECTORS

HARDEEP S PURI



Karyakarta of the BJP and Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, and Petroleum and Natural Gas



SOURAV ROY

opened. Through the JAM Trinity (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile), more than ₹34 lakh crore have been transferred directly to people's accounts. Schemes such as PM KISAN and PM Fasal Bima have reduced the costs and uncertainties for farmers.

Contrast this with the negative vision of the Congress-led opposition. They are hung up on the 'politics of scarcity', still harking back to the days of '*Garibi hatao*' sloganeering. Someone must educate my friends in the opposition—the India of today is very different. Their model of mediocrity and coalitions that did not work until 2014 is now being reframed as a model of equality. They conveniently leave out the fact that only they benefitted during their tenure, as the innumerable scandals of UPA-II highlighted. Yet, the opposition

now seeks to rebrand itself as society's Robinhood. A pity they have been reduced to this kind of vigilante politics.

The opposition lacks an economic vision. Consider their promise of transferring ₹1 lakh annually to one woman of every household. Back-of-the-envelope calculations suggest it would cost ₹32 lakh crore. The total revenue expenditure of the government for 2023-24 was ₹35 lakh crore. Where will they get the money from?

Worse still is their demonisation of wealth-creators. Why attack those who bring jobs to the country, those who propel India's manufacturing and production capabilities? Private enterprise is the chief agent in creating employment and building productive capacity. The private sector accounts for about two-thirds of the total

INSPIRATIONAL FEMALE SAINT OF 12TH CENTURY KARNATAKA

RENUKA NARAYANAN



FAITHLINE

text for Akka's wildness, to conventionalise her as 'God's wife' if not man's. Nor can we blame him for it, given the family was and is the unit of Indian society and it is only after the Constitution came into being that single women became gradually normalised in society outside a religious identity.

Allama Prabhu asked, "Who is your husband?" Akka answered, "I am married forever to Chenna Mallikarjuna." Allama Prabhu then cut to the chase: "Why do you



Akka Mahadevi was born at Udatadi in present-day Shivamogga district and married off to a Jain chieftain. But instead of living a comfortable life, she ran away and joined a radical community, the Virashaivas

room around naked as though illusion can be peeled off by mere gestures? Yet you wear a sari of hair? If the heart is free and pure, why do you need it?" Said Akka, with shattering honesty: "Till the fruit is ripe inside, the skin will not fall off." Melted by her sincerity and lack of ego, Allama Prabhu accepted her into the Virashaiva fold. Akka's view of herself may be found in this poem: *People, male and female, blush when a cloth covering their shame comes loose/ When the Lord of Lives lives drowned without a face in the world, how can you be modest/ When all the world is the eye of the lord, onlooking everywhere, what can you cover and conceal/ O lord white as jasmine, when do I join you, stripped of body's shame and heart's modesty?*

But after a while, her restless spirit grew sated with community life. Where was

Chenna Mallikarjuna, the only being who mattered? She could sense him everywhere but, like the Sufis, she wanted him now. Tradition says she wandered off towards holy Srisailem in current Telangana and entered *mahasamadhi* (died a yogic death). The hagiographic 'flash of light' is said to have occurred, nor was her body ever found. Akka was merely in her twenties.

Her love for Chenna Mallikarjuna is found in verses like this, translated by A K Ramanujan: *I love the Handsome One; he has no death, decay or form, no place or side, no end nor birthmarks/ I love him O mother: Listen/ I love the Beautiful One with no bond nor fear, no clan, no land, no landmarks for his beauty/ So my lord, white as jasmine, is my husband.*

Her deep sense of *viraha* or separation from the divine Beloved is expressed through such poignant verses: *Like a silk-worm weaving her house with love from her marrow, and dying in her body's threads/ winding tight, round and round/ I burn desiring what the heart desires/ Cut through, O lord, my heart's greed, and show me your way out, O lord white as jasmine.*

This love gradually transforms into a recognition of 'God within', of being part of an all-pervasive divinity, and an affirmation that God is in all things and all things belong to God. We see this in Akka's poem: *You are the forest, you are all the great trees in the forest/ you are bird and beast playing in and out of all the trees/ O lord white as jasmine, filling and filled by all/ why don't you show me your face?*

Soon after this, she disappears. She represents the profound transformation that occurs with hard-won self-knowledge. The Mundaka Upanishad (2:2:8) describes it as: *Bhidyate hridaygranthi chhidyate sarva sanshayah/ Kshiyante chaasya karmaani tasmin drushte paraavare*, meaning 'The knot of the heart is cut away doubts vanish and struggles cease, when That, the Truth, is seen.' Akka's words are witness to her soul-progression from fierce longing to deep awareness and remain a message for us that we are all interconnected.

(Views are personal) (shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Media expertise

Ref: *Why Modi Is Western media's hate magnet* (Apr 28). A leader faces the media when he has confidence over his achievements. In a public meeting, though an amount of etiquette is expected, one can speak anything as such meetings are monologues; no questions are answered nor any doubts clarified. But one cannot make false narrations in a meeting with the media. Western media has expertise in bringing out more facts and the hidden agenda. **A G Rajmohan, Anantapur**

Greater responsibility

The article is highly factual, rational and analytical about the behaviour of western media toward Modi's government. The media must exercise greater responsibility and never stray from upholding morality and honesty in their work. **K Venkatasubramanian, Coimbatore**

Adding fuel

The national media seems to already hate PM Narendra Modi, and the international media is adding fuel to it. When our own media depicts the rotten eggs of the opposition as good apples, how would the foreign media keep quiet? **Rajaram Bhat, email**

Inspirational voter

The story about a 63-year-old man who voted just hours before a bypass heart surgery is awe-inspiring. Exercising franchise is both a constitutional right as well as a duty. The man's urge to vote before his medical procedure is a gritty, brave act. The act exemplarily underscores the relevance of voting. The doctors and hospital authorities who facilitated the voting are equally commendable. **P V Prakash, email**

Political vision

Contesting politicians are promising heaven if they are elected. Everybody talks about a vision. If they were really interested in development, we would have seen an entirely different country. Even after over seven decades of Independence, we lack basic amenities. Yet, our politicians still talk about vision. **Durga Prasad Chirala, Vijayawada**

Underwhelming participation

The voting percentage in Kerala was around 71%. The reason cited by the majority was that most youngsters have left Kerala either for higher studies or for work and coming down just for a day to vote would affect them financially. Some provisions have to be put in place to solve this issue. **Uma Mohan, Thrissur**



Tejashwi Yadav @yadavtejashwi
For 17 years, people of NDA were sitting on lakhs of vacancies. JDU govt did nothing regarding jobs, but as soon as we came to power, we made it possible



Mamata Banerjee @MamataOfficial
By manufacturing violence and snatching away jobs, one cannot win polls, and Banga-birotchi Zamindars should understand that



Amit Shah @AmitShah
The people of UP have completely rejected hoodlomanism, crime, putting a stamp on Modi's 10 yrs of development

Violence escalates in Manipur, one killed in gun battle

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Guwahati

A MAN was killed and three people were injured during a gunbattle in Manipur on Sunday even as the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) vowed punishment for the perpetrators of Friday night's deadly attack on its camp in Bishnupur district.

The gunfight on Sunday broke out between two groups of village volunteers from the warring communities in Kuki-majority Kangpokpi district.

The Kuki Students' Organisation (KSO) identified the deceased as Lammang Kipgen (44), a Kuki-Zo tribal. In a statement, KSO said the deceased, a father of five children, had "volunteered to defend one of the most volatile frontlines".

"The enemy unleashed incessant attacks in Leimakhong area raining bullets on Lammang Kipgen and his village volunteer friends. At around 2:30 am, Lammang got hit by bullets," the organisation said.

The Committee on Tribal Unity has called for a 12-hour "total shutdown" in Sadar Hills Kangpokpi in protest against the "unprovoked attack".

The incident comes close on the heels of the attack on the

Deceased volunteered to defend volatile frontlines

The gunfight broke out between two groups of village volunteers from the warring communities in Kangpokpi district. The Kuki Students' Organisation identified the deceased as Lammang Kipgen (44), a Kuki-Zo tribal. It said Kipgen, a father of five, had "volunteered to defend one of the most volatile frontlines".

CRPF camp. Sub-inspector Nizamuddin Sarkar from Assam and head constable Arup Saini from West Bengal were killed in the incident. Two jawans were also injured.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma condemned the "dastardly attack" and expressed condolences to the bereaved families. Manipur police had suspected the hand of "Kuki militants and their supporters" in the attack.

CRPF Inspector General Akhilesh Prasad Singh on Sunday said, "It was a very unfortunate incident. We will bring the perpetrators to justice."

According to the last official count, the ethnic violence, which broke out on May 3 last year, left 219 people dead and over 60,000 displaced.

Forest fires partially put out, choppers withdrawn

Uttarakhand govt says 29 miscreants booked for torching forests

NARENDRA SETHI @Dehradun

THE Uttarakhand forest department in coordination with various departments on Sunday managed to partially control the intense fire engulfing the forests of the Nanda range near Nainital to a significant extent. The forest department has resorted to employing traditional fire-fighting techniques to combat the blaze, officials said.

Considering the limited efficacy of the 'Bambi bucket' water dispersal technique employed by the Air Force's MI-17 chopper, the administration opted to resort to manual fire control measures. Additionally, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel have been deployed by the state government to combat the wildfires at multiple locations.

"A contingent of 41 NDRF personnel was swiftly dispatched to Nainital on Sunday to provide support to the forest officials in containing the wildfires in the region," sub-divisional magistrate Pramod Kumar told this newspaper.

Nishant Verma, additional principal chief conservator of forests and state nodal officer for forest fire, said, "The forest fire situation in the state is largely under control, and there



is no need to panic."

Miscreants involved in forest fire incidents are being dealt with strictly. So far, 29 people have been booked in 23 cases, officials said.

"On Sunday, the primary objective was to control the fire in the Mahesh Khan beat located in Bhawal area," divisional forest officer Chandrashekar Joshi told this newspaper. Significant efforts were directed towards clearing the highly flammable 'pirul' (pine needles) that are a key contributor to rapid spread of the fire. The strategy employed involves isolating the fire-affected area to effectively contain and control the flames, he said.

Uttarakhand Forest Minister Subodh Uniyal said, "The state government will provide rewards ranging from ₹25,000 to ₹1 lakh to forest fire management committees for successfully extinguishing wildfires. Additionally, helicopters will be utilised in special circumstances to aid in firefighting."

Minister Uniyal emphasised the crucial role of public participation in combating forest fires, highlighting the formation of 541 forest fire management committees led by village heads. These committees have been incentivised with ₹30,000 each for the season to enhance their effectiveness in fire prevention and control.

Navy rescues Panama-flagged ship with 22 Indians from Houthi rebels

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

A SWIFT response by the Indian Navy on a distress call raised by a Panama-flagged ship Merchant Vessel (MV) Andromeda Star helped in safeguarding and securing its crew which were mostly Indians.

The Indian Navy (IN) on Sunday said, "A mission deployed Indian Naval Destroyer INS Kochi responded to the maritime security incident involving attack on Panama-flagged crude oil tanker MV Andromeda Star PM 26 April. The vessel is continuing its scheduled journey to the next port."

This was the latest incident in the series of the drone and missile strikes and hijackings which escalated since November 2023.

"The MV was intercepted by the IN ship and an aerial rescue by helicopter was undertaken to assess the situation. An Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team was deployed on-board MV for residual risk assessment," the Navy added.

"A total of 30 crew (including 22 Indian nationals) are reported to be safe and the vessel is continuing its scheduled transit to the next Port," it stated.

The swift action of the Indian Navy ship reiterates the commitment and resolve of the Indian Navy in safeguarding the seafarers plying through the region, it said.

INS Kochi is a guided missile destroyer and part of the beefed



Indian Navy personnel on board Panama-flagged vessel Andromeda Star after rescuing it from the missile attack of Houthi militants | x

'NAVY RESOLVES TO SAFEGUARD SEAFARERS'

Indian Navy said the swift action of the INS Kochi reiterates its commitment and resolve in safeguarding the seafarers. INS Kochi is a guided missile destroyer and part of the beefed up Indian deployment in the area. Since December, in response to the rise in maritime security incidents on merchant vessels transiting through international shipping lanes in Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Central and North Arabian Sea, the Indian Navy has substantially enhanced maritime surveillance efforts

up Indian deployment in the area. Since December, as this newspaper reported, in response to the rise in maritime security incidents on merchant vessels transiting through international shipping lanes in Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Central and North Arabian Sea, the Indian Navy has substantially enhanced maritime surveillance efforts and augmented force levels.

These assets have been pressed in to keep the sea lanes

of communication between Bab el-Mandeb to the Indian coast safe for merchant shipping and missile attacks taking place in the Middle East.

Towards effective surveillance of Exclusive Economic Zone, the Navy is operating in close coordination with the Coast Guard. The piracy incident on MV Ruen and the recent drone attack on MV Chem Pluto indicates a shift in maritime incidents closer to Indian Exclusive Economic Zone.

SC to hear West Bengal plea against HC order on teachers' recruitment

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a plea filed by the West Bengal government against the Calcutta High Court's recent decision to cancel about 25,753 appointments of teaching and non-teaching staff made in 2016 by the state's School Service Commission (SSC).

A three-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud and also comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra would hear the appeal of WB government on April 29. On April 24, the state had moved the apex court by filing an appeal against the Calcutta HC's order invalidating and cancelling the appointment of 25,753 teachers made by the SSC in state-run schools.

Challenging the Calcutta HC's order, the state government, in its appeal filed before the top court, said the HC cancelled the appointments "arbitrarily", and without any proper reasoning.

"The HC had erred in its order. It fails to appreciate the ramification of cancelling the entire selection process leading to straightaway termination of teaching and non-teaching staff from service with immediate effect, without giving sufficient time to the petitioner state to deal with such an exigency, rendering the education system at a stand-still," the plea read.

Hemant Soren's plea to be heard today

The Supreme court is scheduled to hear on Monday former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren's plea against the High Court's delay in pronouncing its verdict on a plea challenging his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate. Senior lawyer Kapil Sibal, appearing for Soren, had on Wednesday mentioned the matter before the bench, which assured listing of the matter as soon as possible.

dering the education system at a stand-still," the plea read.

In its detailed order on Monday, the Calcutta High Court declared the State Level Selection Test-2016 (SLST) recruitment procedure "null and void". The West Bengal teachers' scam involves the selection of assistant teachers for classes 9th-10th and 11th-12th and Group C (clerks) and D posts in the state. Candidates had to undergo a Teacher Eligibility Test (TET), an interview, and a personality test. The selection of the teachers was based on a combination of their TET scores, academic marks, interview performance, and personality test results.

But the HC, after finding that a due process was not followed in the appointment, cancelled the entire procedure. The court had also directed the CBI to investigate the case.



POWER GAMES

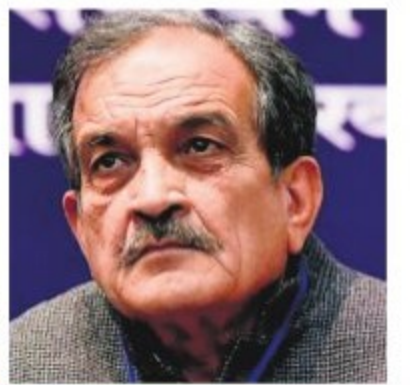
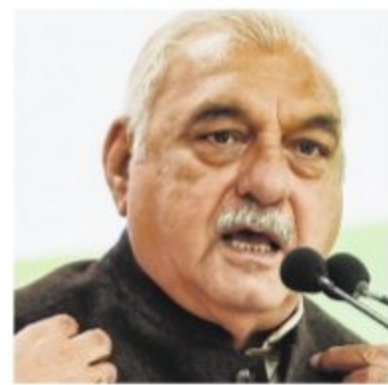
SHAHID FARIDI

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Follow him on X @Shahid_Faridi.

Dynasty Talk

HOODA SELLS THREE FAMILIES IN ONE STROKE

There was a time when Haryana was known as the land of three Lals — Devi Lal, Bansi Lal and Bhajan Lal. All three headed the state government at different times. Devi Lal went on to become deputy Prime Minister during V P Singh's Prime Ministership. Then came two other political families — Hoodas and the Singhs (led by Birender Singh, who is a maternal grandson of Sir Chhotu Ram). While the patriarchs of the three Lal families have long gone, their scions have been locked in a struggle that has lasted several decades. The rise of the Hooda family is threatening the survival of Lal descendants as well as the family of Birender Singh. In the current elections, former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda has succeeded in ensuring that Lok Sabha tickets are denied to the three prominent families despite their best efforts to win the nomination. He got the Bhiwani-Mahendragar ticket for his loyalist Dan Singh by ousting Shruti Chowdhary, who is the daughter of Bansi Lal's daughter-in-law Kiran Chowdhary. Hooda convinced the Congress leadership that Shruti, who had lost the last Lok Sabha election by a margin of over four lakh votes, had no chance of winning this time either. He proposed the name of his loyalist Dan Singh for the seat. Kiran fought for weeks against Hooda's attempt to wrest control of Bhiwani. This delayed the Haryana list as the party had to form a special committee to look into the matter. The decision ultimately went in Hooda's favour. He has similarly persuaded the party against giving a Congress ticket from Hisar either to Birender Singh's son Brijendra Singh, who is a sitting BJP MP from the constituency, or to Bhajan Lal's son Kuldeep Bishnoi, who wanted to quit BJP and return to the Congress. Hooda argued that the party had given everything to Birender and Kuldeep, but they deserted Congress for greener pastures. They want to now return as the party's fortunes appear to be reviving in the state. He said the party should prefer loyalists over deserters. The leadership agreed and nominated Jai Prakash for the Hisar seat.



Internal Rumlblings

BJP STRUGGLES TO HANDLE MERCURIAL BISHNOI

Former chief minister Bhajan Lal's son Kuldeep Bishnoi is giving sleepless nights to the BJP, which he has joined after quitting the Congress. He was expected to be fielded as a BJP candidate from the Hisar Lok Sabha constituency. But the party has nominated Ranjit Singh Chautala, son of former deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal and brother of former Haryana chief minister Om Prakash Chautala. An angry Kuldeep has reportedly refused to campaign for the party in the state. His son Bhavya Bishnoi is the MLA from the Adampur assembly segment of the Hisar Lok Sabha constituency. Attempts to persuade Kuldeep, who has earlier represented the constituency in the Lok Sabha, proved futile. The party then rushed chief minister Nayab Singh Saini to talk to him. Saini met Kuldeep at his Golf Links residence in New Delhi. In the meeting, Kuldeep stuck to his two demands of fielding him from Hisar and making his son a minister. He reportedly told Saini that as a Congress Working Committee member, he used to distribute tickets to candidates, but in BJP he has to fight for his own ticket. He said the denial of ticket has dealt a big blow to his political career. The meeting ended without any agreement as Saini did not make any commitment on Hisar. According to sources, former chief minister M L Khattar spoke to Kuldeep after his meeting with Saini and reminded him of his cases relating to disproportionate assets and some other issues and asked him to focus on sorting them out. Khattar told Kuldeep that in the meantime the party would give more responsibility to his son. But instead of accepting Kuldeep's demand for making Bhavya a minister in the state, the party has made him the head of its youth wing in Haryana. Kuldeep has not taken his sidelining well and is unlikely to take a plunge into campaigning for the party. Sources said the state may see a realignment of forces before the assembly elections later this year.

Centre notifies eco zone of Raj wildlife sanctuary

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

THE Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has issued a draft notification declaring extent and boundaries of Shergarh Wildlife Sanctuary eco-sensitive zone in Rajasthan, officials said.

Eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) is a buffer area around the core protected forest areas to minimise human-wildlife conflict, promote in-situ conservation of wildlife and reduce impact on fragile ecosystems.

The Shergarh Wildlife Sanctuary (SWS) was notified as a wildlife sanctuary in 1983, but since then declaration of eco-sensitive zone was not finalised. In the past eight years, several efforts made to demarcate ESZ areas. In its draft notification, the ESZ encompassed an area of 348.60 sq km with an extent of 1.0 km (minimum) to



17.0 km (maximum) around the boundary of the core area of the wildlife sanctuary, which is 98.6 sq km.

The sanctuary is home to some endangered wild animals, such as leopard, Indian wolf, blackbuck, chinkara, large Bengal monitor lizard, pythons, peafowl and vulture.

The government has invited objections or suggestions on the draft proposals contained in the notification within 60

Govt invites suggestions

The government has invited objections or suggestions on the draft proposals contained in the notification within 60 days since the publication of notification, officials said. In June 2022, the SC directed that every protected forest, national park and wildlife sanctuary in the country have a mandatory eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of a minimum one km

days since the publication of notification, officials said. In June 2022, the Supreme Court directed that every protected forest, national park and wildlife sanctuary across the country have a mandatory eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of a minimum one km starting from their demarcated boundaries.

"In the proposed ESZ, non-forestry activities, such as setting up of industries causing pollution, stone crushers, com-

mercial mining, saw mills, and hydroelectric power projects, are not allowed," said Anurag Bhatnagar, Divisional Forest Officer, Kota. "Some activities, such as construction of roads and setting up of power lines, need permissions from the MoEFCC," he added.

After formal declaration of ESZ, the Rajasthan government needs to prepare a Zonal Master Plan within a period of two years from the date of publication of final notification in consultation with local people and different departments concerned.

Over a decade back, around 1835 hectare forest land of Shergarh sanctuary was diverted for the construction of Parban major dam which triggered protests. Local people alleged that the dam was constructed on forest land and would submerge over dozens of villages.

Mother awaits lone Navy veteran still stuck in Qatar due to travel ban

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

FOR the past two and a half months, 85-year-old mother of Commander Purnendu Tiwari speaks to her son everyday, asking when he will return. The only answer she gets is 'soon'. However, until now there has been no update on when the senior most and the only naval veteran, who was to return from Doha, is finally permitted to return home.

Commander Tiwari is facing a travel ban for a pending issue due to which he hasn't been allowed to return to India, unlike his colleagues who returned on April 12. Ironically, since then he hasn't been questioned on the pending issue.

"It has been over 75 days since Commander Tiwari was held back, while the others



have returned. The uncertainty around his return is creating havoc for his mother who has failing health," said someone familiar with the issue.

It is learnt that the family of Commander Tiwari and those veterans who have returned back to India are hopeful that the travel ban would be lifted and he would be allowed to return back to India.

Even though Commander Tiwari has been permitted to live in his own apartment in Doha, it is not the same as returning home, say people close to him.

India hasnt officially confirmed on when he would return, but the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has said that there are certain requirements to fulfil and he will return once those are completed.

It may be recalled that the eight naval veterans release has been viewed as one of the biggest diplomatic coups by India. These eight were working for a company called Dhara Consultancies that was owned by an Omani Emir. They were picked up from their houses by Qatar's Ministry of Interior in 2022 and were detained until their release on February 12, over-ruling a death penalty.

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

A high-pitched battle is likely in the third phase of Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra where 12 constituencies will vote on May 7. From the BJP side, PM Narendra Modi is due to address nine rallies, while the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) has decided to bank on three Ms – Marathas, Mahars (Dalits) and Muslims, besides local factors. The 12 seats are Baramati, Raigad, Dharashiv, Latur, Solapur, Madha, Sangali, Satara, Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Kolhapur and Hatkanangale. In overall 48 seats, the BJP aspires to repeat its 2014 and 2019 tallies – 42 seats – while the MVA has set a target of 30 seats.

For Ajit Pawar, the contest in three constituencies – Baramati, Raigad, Dharashiv – is important for his political future. “These three seats will be key to decide whether voters are with Ajit or not. In the Pawar family bastion of Baramati, Ajit’s wife Sunetra is locked in a fierce battle against Supriya Sule, the three-term Member of Parliament (MP) and daughter of NCP (SCP) chief Sharad Pawar.

In Raigad, the former stronghold of Peasants Workers Party (PWP), NCP’s state president Sunil Tatkare has locked horns with Shiv Sena (UBT)’s Anant Geete. In the last general elections, Tatkare had won the seat by a close margin of 30,000 votes in 2019 even as his and the rival’s party have witnessed a split.

The Sharad Pawar-led NCP is banking on the 3M factor in Marathwada and western Maharashtra regions, plus local

12 SEATS IN MAHA PHASE III

BJP is banking on the Modi factor in a region that has seen splits in NCP & Shiv Sena – the two parties that along with Congress form Maha Vikas Aghadi. The opposition is raking up local issues and the alleged inability of the BJP to help Marathas & Dalits. Congress feels the BJP has unwittingly forced people to go through its manifesto

REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE STATE
9.24 CR
MALE
4.8 CR
FEMALE
4.43 CR
3RD GENDER
5,610

Baramati
Raigad
Satara
Ratnagiri
Sindhudurg
Kolhapur
Hatkanangale
Sangli



HIGH-PROFILE SEATS: FACTOIDS

BARAMATI

There are six state assembly segments – 2 each of Congress, NCP (Ajit Pawar) and BJP

2019

Winner: **Supriya Sule** (NCP)
Vote share: **53%**
Loser: **Kanchan Kul** (BJP)
Vote share: **41%**
Victory margin: **12%**

2014

Winner: **Supriya Sule** (NCP)
Vote share: **48%**
Loser: **Mahadev Jankar** (Rastriya Samaj Paksha)
Vote share: **42%**
Victory margin: **6.6%**

SOLAPUR

There are three BJP MLAs, two of NCP (AP) while one of the Congress

2019

Winner: **Jai Siddheshwar Mahaswami** (BJP)
Vote share: **48.7%**
Loser: **Sushil Kuamr Shinde** (Congress)
Vote share: **34%**
Victory margin: **14.7%**

2014

Winner: **Sharad Bansode** (BJP)
Vote share: **54.4%**
Loser: **Sushil Kuamr Shinde** (Congress)
Vote share: **38.7%**
Victory margin: **15.7%**

MODI VERSUS THREE MS IN MAHA BATTLE-III

Pawar play on in constituencies where polls are due on May 7; opposition MVA banks on the support of Marathas, Mahars & Muslims

anti-incumbency and agrarian crisis. “In the first and second phases, the MVA performed exceptionally well due to the DMK – Dalits, Muslims and Kunbis – factor plus local issues. ‘Social engineering,’ an offshoot of DMK, has favoured the Congress and NCP. It was the same factor that supported the BJP in 2014 and 2019. “This time, BJP has not worked for the welfare of these communities, which is forcing them to return to the parent party, the Congress. That’s why Union minister Nitin Gadkari is in trouble in Nagpur,” said senior Congress leader.

He said in the third and fourth phases, the 3-M factor

will work effectively. “We had great hope from Marathwada and western Maharashtra regions. Sharad Pawar always relied on that factor when it came to winning the seat. Due to Sharad Pawar, the Marathas are aligning with the MVA while sympathizing with Uddhav Thackeray and helping to consolidate small castes, women and minority votes for the MVA,” said the Congress leader. An NCP(SP) leader sarcastically remarked that the Congress manifesto has successfully percolated down thanks to PM Narendra Modi’s negative campaign. “Curiosity

has led the people to read the Congress manifesto,” he said.

Observers say the current political atmosphere in Maharashtra is anti-establishment due to the policies of state and central governments. The NCP leader said the 84-year-old Sharad Pawar lost his party to his nephew Ajit, but the senior Pawar continues to carry the trust of the voter.

“Sharad Pawar brought back former deputy chief minister Vijay Sinh Mohite Patil to his faction. This has not only rejuvenated his party but has helped develop a second rung of leadership in state as-

sembly segments,” said an observer. “This move has given the party an edge in Madha-like negative seat and its spillover will influence the adjoining Solapur, Satara and Baramati Lok Sabha seats,” he added.

Moreover, Uddhav Thackeray has also campaigned in every Lok Sabha segment and encouraged his cadre to come out to defeat the “traitors”. The MVA also organises common rallies for senior leaders. Aditya Thackeray and Sharad Pawar’s grand-nephew Rohit Pawar are also campaigning and attracting the young voters by raising the unemployment issue and shifting of

some of the development works from the state to Gujarat. “This election is a very close contest where the BJP is fighting to retain all seats while MVA is out to snatch the traditional constituencies belonging to the alliance partners,” he added.

A BJP leader said Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray may have their sympathizers, but their parties do not have a structure like the BJP to bring voters to the booths. He said the BJP has well-trained booth-level workers that will override all factors being talked about in this election. “We are in power in the state and Centre and have more

than 170 MLAs in the 288-member state assembly. The talk of MVA being strong is only airy-fairy. We are strong on the ground with abundant resources, which will make a huge difference when votes are counted,” said the BJP leader.

“Besides, PM Modi is a popular leader capable of attracting large crowds. When it comes to voting, people will surely vote on national issues and Modi’s charisma,” said the BJP leader. “The Opposition does not have a leader who matches Modi. The voter does not have a choice other than Modi,” the BJP leader said.

UTTAR PRADESH

Shah asks people to reject those who fired at kar sevaks

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

STEPPING up attack on the Samajwadi Party (SP), which would be the main rival in the third phase of Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday slammed the party’s first family over dynastic politics in Mainpuri.

He urged people in Kasganj to choose between those who fired at Kar Sewaks or who got Ram Lalla enthroned in his abode after a wait of 500 years. Mainpuri and Kasganj will vote in the third phase of elections on May 7.

While addressing a poll rally in Mainpuri, the Yadavs’ bastion, Shah launched a tirade against SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, asking if there were no other “Yadavs” in the reckoning to have got tickets from at least five seats on which his family members were contesting.

Notably, five members of the Yadav clan, including the SP chief himself from Kannauj, his wife Dimple from Mainpu-

ri, and his cousins Akshay from Firozabad, Aditya from Badaun and Dharmendra from Azamgarh, are contesting.

In Mainpuri, the BJP has fielded MLA and Yogi minister Jaiveer Singh to take on Dimple Yadav. Shah also took on Rahul Gandhi-Akhilesh Yadav alliance in UP, saying the tie-up had been a non-starter in the first two phases of polling over 16 seats of the western UP on April 19 and 26.

Attacking Rahul Gandhi, Shah said that the former had suspected “bloodshed” in Kashmir if Article 370 was abrogated.

“When I took the bill for abrogation of Article 370, ‘Rahul Baba’ said that Article 370 shouldn’t be abrogated or there would be bloodshed in Kashmir. But, it’s PM Modi’s govt, and no one has dared to pelt a stone,” he asserted. Earlier, addressing a rally in Kasganj in support of Rajveer Singh alias Raju Bhaliya, sitting BJP MP from the constituency, Shah hit out at the opposition for keeping the Ram temple issue “hanging.”



BJP fields Yogi minister

In Mainpuri, the BJP has fielded MLA and Yogi minister Jaiveer Singh to take on Dimple Yadav. Shah also took on Rahul Gandhi-Akhilesh Yadav alliance in UP, saying the tie-up had been a non-starter in the first two phases of polling over 16 seats of the western UP on April 19 and 26.

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CHHATTISGARH

Korba BJP candidate get EC notice over religious banners

EJAZ KAISER @Raipur

THE Election Commission has issued a show-cause notice to the BJP candidate from the Korba Lok Sabha constituency in Chhattisgarh for violating the model code of conduct (MCC) after her photograph allegedly appeared on posters and banners for a religious programme, officials said on Sunday.

Following a complaint from the Congress, the office of the assistant returning officer of Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur district served the notice to Saroj Pandey and sought her reply by April 29, the officials said.

Earlier, a conditional approval was given to organise ‘Shri Ram Katha’ on April 26 by Bageshwar Dham preacher Pandit Dharendra Shastri.

“The flying squad and a videography by a team at the venue of the programme found that devotees and visitors who attended the event were welcomed with BJP bandana (gamcha) by the party workers that

apparently indicated the efforts intended to reap political benefit from the religious event,” said the letter issued by the assistant returning officer to the BJP candidate.

District congress committee president Ashok Shrivastava has lodged a complaint that the flexi photos of BJP candidate and ministers of the Chhattisgarh government have been used during the publicity of the programme to promote their political campaign, the letter stated.

“Shouldn’t then the entire expenses incurred during the given programme, as being politically sponsored at Lal Bahadur Shastri stadium in Chirmiri, be added to the expenditure account of your party and also consider it as a violation of the Model Code of Conduct,” the letter said. Meanwhile, the election expenditure observer of Raigarh Lok Sabha constituency served a notice to BJP candidate Radheshaym Rathiya over discrepancies in his poll expenditure, an official statement said.



SP candidate booked

Samajwadi Party candidate from Ballia, Sanatan Pandey, has landed in soup by giving controversial statement that if he would be defeated by manipulation and the Election Officer would not give him victory certificate in time, either his body or that of the reuttering officer would come out of the district election office. He was booked for threatening a government official.

EACH VOTE COUNTS

5 of a family get a booth of their own in Ladakh

FAYAZ WANI @Srinagar

IN Ladakh Union Territory, the election authorities have set up a polling station for five members of a family in a remote village of Washi in Leh district. Ladakh chief electoral officer (CEO) Yetindra M Maralkar said, “A polling station has been set up under a tent in the remote village of Washi in Nubra, around 170 kms from Leh, as part of the Election Commission’s efforts to ensure 100 per cent participation of people in the electoral process.”

Voting for Ladakh Lok Sabha seat will be held in the 5th phase on May 20 and it will be the first major electoral exercise in the cold desert region after scrapping of Articles 370 and bifurcation of J&K state into two UTs – Jammu and Kashmir and La-

dakh – on August 5, 2019.

“The five members of a single family are eligible to cast their vote in the village and the tented polling station has been at their doorstep,” Maralkar said. The family comprises six members and five of them – two males and three females – are eligible to vote. The head of the family is a farmer.

The Ladakh UT comprises two districts – Muslim-dominated Kargil and Buddhist-dominated Leh. A total electorate of 1,82,571, including 91,703 males and 90,868 females, are eligible to vote. The EC has set up 577 polling stations across the UT, including 33 in urban and 544 in rural areas. In view of inaccessibility of some polling stations in Ladakh, the polling material and staff will be airlifted to remote villages.

Indore doctors chip in to boost voter turnout

ANURAAG SINGH @Bhopal

WITH the first two phases of Lok Sabha polls reporting a low voter turnout compared to the 2019 national elections in Madhya Pradesh, some doctors and diagnostic centres in country’s cleanest city Indore, have decided to offer discounts/incentives to patients who vote in the polls.

Some doctors in Indore (which is the state’s most populated city) and diagnostic centres, including founder of central lab Dr Vinita Kothari have made significant announcements in this regard.

“Calling upon all citizens of Indore to mark their calendars for May 13 and exercise the right to vote. Your vote is not only your voice in shaping the future, but also a step forward towards a healthier community,” Kothari wrote on social media platforms on Sunday.

She further announced free health tests for all those who exercise their franchise in Indore on May 13.



Voters get discounts in C’garh’s Raipur too

Prominent hotels, hospitals and multiplexes in Chhattisgarh’s capital Raipur have offered discounts on their services to electors in a bid to enhance voter turnout in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls, officials said on Sunday. The offers will be applicable to voters for a few days from May 7, the date of polling in Raipur Lok Sabha constituency.

A prominent homeopathy practitioner Dr AK Dwivedi, meanwhile, has announced 50% concessions to all those who vote in the LS polls in Indore on May 13.

He has shared the numbers of two associates Dr Jitendra

and Dr Dipak Upadhyaya for all those who vote on May 13 and want to avail the concession.

Some other medical practitioners of the city too are coming up with similar incentives to boost voting in Indore constituency, which houses the

maximum number of voters in the state.

Importantly, the first two phases of LS polls in MP (April 19 and April 26) which saw 12 seats of Mahakoshal, Vindhya, Bundelkhand and central MP go to polls, reported lower turnout compared to the 2019 figures.

While the 67 percent voter turnout was reported in the first phase, which was eight percent lower than the 75% plus voting reported on the same seats in the 2019 elections, the second phase reported more decline in the voting numbers.

In the second phase (which covered seats of Vindhya, Bundelkhand and central MP), the turnout stood at 58.35% that was nine percent lower than the 67.64% polling reported on the same six seats in the previous LS polls.

Indore along with seven other seats of the western and south western MP (Malwa-Nimar) region will vote in the fourth phase (MP’s last phase) on May 13.



Ex-BJP Minority Morcha chief held

Following the conclusion of Lok Sabha elections in Rajasthan, Usman Ghani, former President of Bikaner BJP Minority Morcha, has been apprehended by the police. Three days ago, the BJP had expelled Ghani from the party. The police released a statement on Ghani’s arrest, citing his altercation with officers at the police station as the reason for his detention on charges of breaching peace. Ghani recently commented on PM Modi’s remarks made in a statement concerning Delhi.



Vote for Modi, says Fadnavis in Solapur

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis appealed to voters to put aside other issues and vote for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying he kept everyone alive by making vaccines available during the COVID-19 pandemic. Fadnavis sought votes over vaccines during his addresses at Madha and Barshi towns in Solapur. The senior BJP leader held his first rally at Barshi, where NCP’s Archana Patil is contesting against MP Omraje Nimbalkar of Shiv Sena (UBT).

Sajjad Lone blames ex-Guv for slander

Separatist-turned-politician Sajjad Lone, who heads a faction of People’s Conference, has accused last governor of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir Satya Pal Malik of being the first person to start public slandering of Kashmiris and helping in removal of Article 370 in August 2019. Lone, who was a part of Hurriyat Conference till assassination of his father in early 2000s, said that his attempt to form a government in 2018 was “not serious”.

No age restriction now on purchase of health insurance plans

Removing age limit opens up access to health coverage for senior citizens, and they should look for features like no-claim bonuses to combat medical inflation

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

THE decision by the insurance regulatory and development authority of India (IRDAI) to remove age restrictions on health insurance policies is a significant move that reflects a more inclusive approach towards insurance coverage in India. Earlier, most insurance companies would not sell health insurance products to persons above 65 years.

This change allows individuals of all age groups to access health insurance without being limited by age-related constraints. It indicates a progressive step towards ensuring that more people, including the elderly population, can avail of essential health coverage and benefits. By eliminating age restrictions, the IRDAI is promoting greater financial security and healthcare access for a broader segment of the population, ultimately enhancing the overall insurance landscape in the country. Rakesh Jain, chief executive officer (CEO), Reliance

General Insurance said, "For senior citizens, this initiative signifies an end to the constraints that previously barred many from securing health insurance past a certain age. This move fosters financial security by allowing older individuals at a vulnerable age to access crucial healthcare without age-based barriers. It will encourage long-term health planning and innovation in insurance products, catering to diverse age groups' needs."

"The competitive market dynamics spurred by this change may result in improved offerings and services for consumers. Insurers will now be encouraged to design products that cater specifically to the needs of senior citizens, including those with pre-existing conditions," Jain stated.

Adapting to the change

With the removal of age restrictions on health insurance policies in India, insurers will need to adapt their underwriting practices to effectively manage

LANDMARK MOVE

By eliminating age restrictions, the insurance regulator IRDAI is promoting greater financial security and healthcare access for a broader segment of the population

For senior citizens, this initiative signifies an end to the constraints that previously barred many from securing health insurance past a certain age. Some policies also allow for reducing waiting periods for pre-existing conditions by paying a higher premium.

THE REMOVAL OF THE AGE CAP WILL PROVIDE SENIOR CITIZENS WITH COMPLETE PEACE OF MIND

the increased risks associated with insuring older demographics. Insurers may need to reevaluate risk assessment methodologies, pricing structures, and coverage options to accommodate a more diverse age range of policyholders. This shift towards a more inclusive approach ensures that individuals of all ages have the opportunity to obtain adequate protection against medical expenses, promoting financial se-

curity and better healthcare access for everyone. By embracing this change, insurers can contribute to creating a more accessible and equitable healthcare ecosystem, where individuals can obtain the necessary coverage regardless of their age, thereby enhancing overall societal well-being.

According to Prasun Sikdar, CEO, ManipalCigna Health Insurance, the removal of the age cap on health insurance poli-

cies will provide senior citizens with complete peace of mind, knowing that they have access to quality healthcare when they need it most during the golden years of their life.

ManipalCigna recently launched a 'Prime Senior' plan that gives flexibility with lower waiting periods and provides coverage for pre-existing disease conditions from 91st day onwards. Sikdar says understanding the evolving needs of seniors and the rising medical inflation, this pivotal change is an opportunity to extend our unwavering support to the elderly in safeguarding their health and well-being.

Siddharth Singhal, Business Head, Health Insurance at Policybazaar.com, highlighted the significance of removing age restrictions in health insurance policies that opens up access to comprehensive health coverage for senior citizens. He made it clear that while age restrictions are lifted, standard terms and conditions, such as waiting periods, would remain

consistent for all policyholders. Moreover, he recommended that individuals purchasing new policies should precisely examine the policy particulars, such as limitations on room rent, co-payment obligations, and restrictions on certain treatments. This comprehensive assessment ensures that policy buyers understand the extent of their health insurance coverage and can make well-informed choices. He also mentioned that this regulatory move fosters inclusivity, simultaneously it would also encourage insurance companies to innovate and develop insurance products tailored to the diverse needs of different age groups.

How to choose a plan?

According to experts, when choosing a health insurance plan, seniors should consider various factors to strike a balance between comprehensive coverage and affordability. They should opt for plans with shorter waiting periods for pre-existing conditions to ensure

timely coverage access. Balance the premium affordability with the level of co-pay, as lower premiums may entail higher co-pay percentages.

They should look for features like no-claim bonuses to combat medical inflation and compare plan features online before making a decision. They should ensure that they have an adequate sum insured and consider a top-up plan for additional coverage. While copayment is now optional for senior citizens, higher premiums can eliminate this requirement.

Some policies also allow for reducing waiting periods for pre-existing conditions by paying a higher premium. Senior citizens should opt for quarterly or monthly premium payment options if annual payments are burdensome. Plans catering to seniors often include features like home treatment and nursing care, with relaxed underwriting norms accommodating pre-existing conditions like diabetes and hypertension.

MONEY MATTERS

WHY YOU NEED TO BE SMART ABOUT CREDIT CARDS



FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

OUR habits with money have an impact on the economy. You are saving less every year and borrowing even more. There is a decline in the net household savings rate to gross domestic product in 2022-23 to 5.3% of GDP. That is down from 7.3% in the year-ago period. At the same time, your intense borrowing through unsecured personal loans led to the Reserve Bank of India clamping down on it in November 2023. The RBI observed an eventual decline in unsecured personal loan growth. Even then, the overall personal loan growth stood at 18.1% in February 2024, marginally lower than the previous months.

A primary driver of personal loans is your credit card. They continue to attract new borrowers. The total outstanding loans on credit cards continue to grow at over 30%. Since credit cards are a part of the payment system, there has been a substantial increase in usage due to their ease of use. In February 2024, credit card transaction volume grew by 34% and value by 25.7%. The number of outstanding credit cards in

banks surpassed the ten-crore mark. According to media reports, the total number of credit cards held globally is 125 crore in 2023.

The unified payment interface or UPI-enabled payment systems have facilitated credit card use. Using your credit card with a QR code and making payments is now easy. That means you are borrowing money for even small payments. The other important aspect is that banks know much about you today due to your digital footprint. Making timely credit card bill payments allows you to build a positive credit history. Banks are always happy if their customers borrow money, which could eventually attract a higher interest rate. If you do not fully pay your credit cards, you are paying an interest rate of 40% to 50% on the outstanding balance. Banks love such customers who roll over credit and pay them more interest.

A survey among credit card users by Anq, a financial platform, found that one in every five credit card users has more than four or five credit cards. Nearly two-thirds of the respondents chose credit cards based on the reward programmes. Besides that, banks run a referral programme too. They reward you for recommending a friend.

Credit cards are high-cost loans. There is a convenience of a 45-day inter-

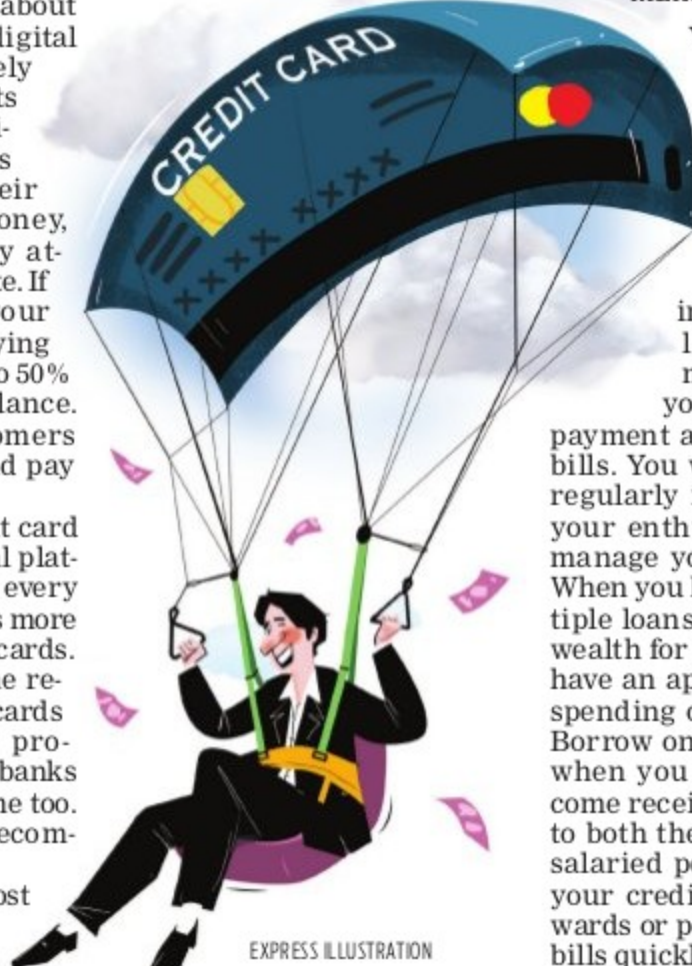
est-free period. However, if you do not pay the bills on time, it can result in high-cost debt. Ideally, the money that you borrow should be used for asset creation. So, you can borrow to buy a house or a commercial property. The interest rate on a home loan is the cheapest. It is the highest on a credit card bill. All personal loans attached to your credit card also attract a higher interest rate than per-

sonal loans linked to an asset like a house, land, or gold.

If you are running high credit card bills, you must stop that now. Take a personal loan on your credit card or a top-up loan on your existing home loan. You can pay off your credit card bills. So, if you are regular in your repayments, the top-up loan is an excellent way to raise money for significant expenses.

Managing expenses

Your credit cards offer convenience in payment. You should treat it as a short-term solution. Ultimately, you must ensure that your expenses are within your means. Your long-term retirement goals must be your first choice of payment and not credit card bills. You will borrow money regularly if you do not curb your enthusiasm to shop or manage your expenses well. When you keep servicing multiple loans, you barely create wealth for yourself. You must have an appropriate sense of spending on high-cost loans. Borrow on a credit card only when you have adequate income receivable. That applies to both the salaried and non-salaried people. You can use your credit cards, collect rewards or points, and pay your bills quickly.



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

MONEY-WISE

MYTHS & MISCONCEPTIONS OF MARKET PARTICIPANTS



FINANCIAL ADVICE

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(Views expressed here are personal)



and the need to undertake re-balancing when the markets swing to either extreme. Resultantly, many investors panic and simply bail out of their SIPs as well as in certain extreme cases, all their equity investments when the market shows signs of weakness.

At the worst possible time, mind you. And then, when equities rebound sharply, many are averse to the logical act of re-balancing by moving a notch or two lower on the risk ladder even while continuing to ride the tide. There can be no prizes for guessing how this 'merry-go-round' ride will eventually play out for such market participants.

Finally, there is a belief that losing money through such self-induced mistakes is largely the domain of retail market participants. Think again. There is no dearth of exotic 'weapons of mass (wealth) destruction' always on offer for market participants with the tag of High-Net-Worth Investors (HNIs), and there is no shortage of those ready to take the bait sans awareness, and bite the inevitable bullet.

The only real difference between these so-called HNIs and retail participants is that the former are usually averse to complaining and letting the world at large know how they have allowed themselves to be relieved of their funds.

stocks and mutual funds. He informed me that he followed some 'beverage investing' style that he had read about and imbibed, to help 'diversify' his portfolio. He also informed me that his wife, also an IT professional and avid market buff like him, had a portfolio of around 250 stocks and mutual funds.

And while on the point of mutual funds and stocks, there is no dearth of market participants that swear they buy only blue-chip stocks and mutual funds. By 'blue-chip' they presumably mean large cap stocks and funds as per the regulator's categorization norms. Clearly then, they are duplicating what the fund manager of the mutual fund scheme who has the wherewithal to do it far better, does. This act of duplication, thus defeats the very purpose of 'diversifying'.

Another, and a more fundamental but self-induced mistake market participants make is to forget all about one's Asset Allocation plan

Tesla CEO Elon Musk takes a China detour after deferring trip to India

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

BARELY a week after scrapping his much-anticipated India visit, Tesla CEO Elon Musk on Sunday made a surprise visit to China, the carmaker's second biggest market. Musk was supposed to arrive in India the previous Sunday where he was expected to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a bunch of start-up founders.

Musk instead met with Chinese Premier Li Qiang in Beijing on Sunday. Qiang reportedly said that American automaker's development in China can be called "a successful example of Sino-US economic and trade cooperation".

According to reports, Musk is visiting Beijing to discuss enabling autonomous driving mode also called Full Self Driving (FSD) on Tesla cars in China. He is also seeking permission to transfer data collected from there to overseas markets to improve the algorithm.

Musk's sudden visit to China came days after Tesla said that they would now harness the company's existing facilities to



ramp up production to 3 million units per annum rather than investing in a new manufacturing unit. This decision by Tesla may put its India plans on hold where the carmaker till recently was expected to announce a multi-billion-dollar investment to make affordable electric cars.

Tesla operates its biggest plant globally in Shanghai (China), producing about 1 million units of Model 3 and Model Y cars per annum.

If Tesla decides to postpone its India plan, it will be a big setback for the current government which brought in major changes in its EV policy and lowered taxes on imported cars to attract global automakers. India is now allowing the im-

port of completely built-up (CBU) electric cars that have a minimum cost, insurance and freight (CIF) value of \$35,000 at 15% import duty for a period of 5 years.

It was only after this reduction that Musk on April 10 announced that he would be visiting India and meeting PM Modi. This fuelled rumours that Musk would announce entering into the Indian market, giving a big boost to PM Modi who is contesting for a third term in the ongoing general elections.

Last Saturday, however, Musk said that very heavy Tesla obligations require that the visit to India be delayed. He added that he would visit the country at the end of 2024.

Govt plans 6 mega power plants near coalfields

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

IN a bid to reduce the country's reliance on expensive coal transportation for electricity generation, the coal ministry is planning to set up massive power plants around its coalfields across the country. These coal-based power plants, each with a capacity of 5,000 megawatts (total 30 GW capacity), will be built in the coal fields of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Jharkhand. According to the coal ministry, each power plant will be established through joint ventures (JVs) with the government, private power companies, and state-owned electricity generators.

Under the terms of the JVs, the state-owned coal companies will have a stake or equity in the power plants, and in return, the Coal Ministry will provide adequate land, coal, or funds.

To kick off the project, the ministry is creating land banks or acquiring land around its coalfields, and the work on the projects will begin once the general election is over.

"We are already in talks with power companies to set up these plants right next to the coal mines. Acquiring land



near the mines now will also speed things up once the elections are over," said an official.

The total generation capacity of these power plants will be 30 GW. Two plants will be located in Chhattisgarh: one at its Mand-Raigarh Coalfield and another at the Korba Coalfield. In Odisha, two plants will be situated in the IB Valley area and the Sardega region. The north will have two plants at Chotanagpur in the North Karanpura Coalfield, and another in the Rajmahal Coalfield in Jharkhand. According to the official, the government wants to replicate the model of the Shaktinagar's coalfield re-

Generation capacity of six power plants

The total generation capacity of these power plants will be 30 GW. Two plants will be located in Chhattisgarh: one at its Mand-Raigarh Coalfield and another at the Korba Coalfield. In Odisha, two plants will be situated in the IB Valley area and the Sardega region. As per the industry estimates, the average cost of coal production is around ₹2,000 per tonne, including all levies.

gion, which produces 10% of India's coal and its Singrauli Super Thermal Power Station (SSTPS) generates 10% of the country's electricity needs.

"Transporting electricity is inherently cheaper than transporting coal and then generating electricity. Therefore, the government is keen to start these power projects as soon as possible," said the official.

As per the industry estimates, the average cost of coal production is around ₹2,000 per tonne, including all levies. However, transportation costs and losses cause the landed cost of coal at power plants to more than double to ₹4,300-4,600 per tonne.

This is the primary reason behind the government's plan for these projects. Moreover, India needs to increase its power capacity to meet the growing demand and for economic growth. As per the National Electricity Plan, India's total installed capacity requirement by 2031-32 is projected to be 900,422 MW, encompassing both fossil and non-fossil-based capacities along with a significant allocation for Battery Energy Storage Systems. Additionally, the Central Electricity Authority has planned for an increase in coal-based capacity to 283,000 MW by FY 2032 from the current 214,000 MW.

Dube sends timely reminder

With his improved show vs pace & consistent six-hitting skill, batter makes a case for T20 WC

GOMESH S @ Chennai

DARYL Mitchell had just been holed out in the deep after his first fifty of the IPL this season. Chennai Super Kings are up against arguably the most destructive batting line-up — Sunrisers Hyderabad — and the scoreboard read 126/2 in 13.3 overs. The yellow team is generally at home in Chepauk, but SRH has constantly made teams second guess.

In walks Shivam Dube. Short strides, willow shifting from one hand to another while checking his bat swing. And the 36,000-strong crowd in the stands acknowledged. They reserved the second-biggest cheer for the left-hander (loudest cheer was for MS Dhoni, who would walk in later).

Dube, at that point, had 311 runs in eight innings with a strike rate close to 170. He has built a reputation for himself as the most destructive middle-order six-hitter among Indians in the league. Such has been his impact that his name has been trending for all the good reasons. Will he make it to the T20 World Cup? Can he do the same for India in the United States and West Indies?

The issue, however, is that he has been playing only as an impact substitute and hasn't bowled at all. That said, he was the top run-scorer when India played three T20Is against Afghanistan in January and bowled seven overs. And with the increasing concern over the form of Hardik Pandya, is there any scope for the selectors to consider Dube as a back-up? It is not an argument one can dismiss.

However, more than the bowling and the fielding bit, the biggest question of all is how much does IPL performances count in



Shivam Dube scored a 20-ball 39 to provide a late flourish to CSK | ASHWIN PRASATH

Bowler Type	Runs	Balls	SR
Capped	296	177	167.2
Uncapped	54	26	207.69

international cricket and what is the gap in assessing a batter. For starters, in a league like IPL, every team will have at least one or two weak links. A bowler batters target, and more often than not it's the uncapped players who face the burn.

If one has to break down Dube's runs based on that regard, here is how it looks. Against all capped international bowlers, Dube has faced 177 deliveries (until Sunday) and scored 296 runs at 167.2 SR. Uncapped domestic bowlers have gone for 54 runs in 26 balls at 207.69 SR. While there is a clear indication of dominance over domestic bowlers, a SR of 167.2

in the middle-order cannot be ignored. While Dube has been prominently used as a spin basher, teams know that and they plan accordingly. They have consciously avoided bowling spin to him as much as they can. In the three games before Sunday (two against Lucknow Super Giants and one against Mumbai Indians) Dube got to face all of five deliveries from spinners. That, however, hasn't affected Dube at all. He held his own, stood tall and smashed 135 runs in 73 balls across three innings.

Sunday, too, was expected to be the same as SRH had just one spinner in the ranks. Dube

was welcomed by a yorker from Jaydev Unadkat and he dug it out for a single. Two overs later, Pat Cummins delivered another one at 140.3KPH and Dube kept him out. He did the same against T Natarajan too in the 17th over, with the score reading four from seven balls. There was no panic. As with any good player, Dube knew his limitations more than his strengths and he did not stop there, he has tried to minimise it as much as possible.

The moment Natarajan missed the yorker by an inch it went sailing into the midwicket stands. Chepauk, once again, was on its feet, chanting his name. Two balls later, another yorker fell as a wide full toss and this time, it went over the covers. Watching this all, Cummins resorted to slower delivery which Dube smacked into the sight screen. Cummins missed the yorker again, and it was bludgeoned over midwicket.

His plan is pretty simple. Knock it down for a single when the bowler hits the mark and any sign of imperfection, pounce on it. That is what Dube had done so far and he continued to do the same on Sunday as well. That he has struck at 172.1 against pace and 173.6 versus spin this season is a clear indication of how much he has upskilled and has married his intent with consistency.

Another six off Natarajan came in the final over, as Dube and Dhoni ran off the field with CSK putting up 212/3 in 20 overs. The score next to Dube's name read 39 runs from 20 balls. Strike rate 195.

Dube has done everything he can. Now, it is up to the selectors to decide whether they want him on that plane to the United States.

India women seal Uber Cup quarterfinal spot

Isharani Baruah and Anmol Kharb shone bright as the Indian women's team entered the quarterfinals of the Uber Cup badminton tournament with a 4-1 win over Singapore in the second tie of group A, in Chengdu, China on Sunday. Asian champions India, who had defeated Canada 4-1 in the opening tie, produced another fine show as they recovered from the opening match loss of Ashmita Chaliha and went on to win the rest of the contests with ease to come up trumps.

Gaikwad, Deshpande guide CSK to easy win over SRH

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

A PROFESSIONAL display by Chennai Super Kings enabled the hosts to defeat Sun Risers Hyderabad by 78 runs and get their IPL campaign back on track here at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Sunday.

First CSK captain Ruturaj Gaikwad led by example to make a valuable 98 and lay the platform for a creditable win. Later, Tushar Deshpande with his fiery first spell where he accounted for three wickets broke the back of the top order of the visitors. He ended up with figures of 4 for 27.

Chasing 213 for a win, SRH had a disastrous start. They lost Travis Head and Amolpreet Singh in the second over of their innings with Deshpande bagging both the wickets. He bowled with a lot of fire and zest. He hit the deck in the right areas and could extract good bounce and carry. High on confidence Deshpande next foxed Abhishek Sharma with a slower one and all that the SRH batter could do was hole out to Mitchell at deep point.

Ravindra Jadeja joined the party and added to SRH's misery by accounting for the



Ruturaj Gaikwad missed out on his 2nd straight ton by 2 runs | ASHWIN PRASATH

dangerous Nitish Reddy. He foxed Reddy into playing a false shot and the intended pull ended up as a skier which was neatly held by MS Dhoni. Thus SRH were reduced to 72 for 4 and from then on the task became difficult. Ruturaj shuffled his bowlers well and maintained the pressure till the end.

Earlier, half-centuries by Ruturaj Gaikwad (98 off 54 balls) and Daryl Mitchell (52) came in handy for the home team to post a challenging total. Ruturaj was unlucky to miss his century by two runs,

but his innings had grace written all over it. He was at his sublime best and played with a lot of responsibility.

Such was his knock that at no point during his innings Ruturaj tried to throw away his wicket by playing a rash shot. He ensured that he stayed till the end to guide his team to post a challenging total. Ruturaj along with Daryl Mitchell added 107 runs in 64 balls for the second wicket.

Ruturaj's commitment can be best described in the way he handled SRH captain Pat Cummins. Cummins bowled a low full-toss outside off stump, Gaikwad reached out for it and opened the face of the bat to slice it between backward point and short third man, this was perhaps the shot of the day for it showed the commitment and presence of mind of the CSK skipper.

Ruturaj's end came when he went for an ambitious shot off T Natarajan to be only be caught by Nitish Reddy in the deep, by then he had done his job. Earlier, put into bat CSK lost their opener Ajinkya Rahane cheaply.

Brief scores: CSK 212/3 in 20 ovs (Gaikwad 98, Mitchell 52, Dube 39 n.o.), bt SRH 134 in 18.5 ovs (Markram 32; Deshpande 4/27, Pathirana 2/17, Rahman 2/19).

MID-TABLE TUSSLE

With both teams at ten points, a win could go a long way for both Delhi Capitals and Kolkata Knight Riders. A look...



Jake vs Narine

If Sunil Narine has lit up the stage with his six-hitting, Jake Fraser-McGurk has taken it to another level with three sensational knocks so far. The youngster has been a breath of fresh air for Delhi and expect him to do a repeat of what happened in Delhi a few days ago against Mumbai Indians.

Kolkata Knight Riders vs Delhi Capitals, Eden Gardens | Live on Star Sports and Jio Cinema, 7.30 PM

Jacks, Kohli power Bengaluru to emphatic win over Gujarat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

A SENSATIONAL 41-ball century from Will Jacks and a fifty from Virat Kohli helped Royal Challengers Bengaluru cruise to the 201-run target in just 16 overs against Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

Chasing a competitive target on a comparatively big ground, RCB kicked off with intent.

Both Faf du Plessis and Virat Kohli went for early boundaries but the former fell shortly after. When Faf got out, RCB were 41/1 after four overs. However, unlike while batting first, Kohli showed his prowess as a chase master. He lofted Rashid Khan down the ground and even went after R Sai Kishore, hitting the spinner for two sixes. Noor Ahmad too was not

BRIEF SCORES: GT 200/3 in 20 ovs (Sudharsan 84 n.o., Shahruxh 58) lost to RCB 206/1 in 16 ovs (Jacks 100 n.o., Kohli 70 n.o.).

spared with both Jacks and Kohli picking up boundaries.

Such was Kohli's chasing skill that he raced to his fifty in 32 balls. At that point, RCB were 98/1 in ten overs. Jacks was batting on a run-a-ball 16. With regular boundaries com-

ing over the next four overs, the duo added 50 runs. That is when Jacks went crazy.

Mohit Sharma was brought back and Jacks sent him to the ropes. He was just getting started. Three sixes and another four came in the over as Jacks and RCB took 29 off Mohit. Rashid was brought back but it had little effect. Jack hit 6, 6, 4, 6, and 6 and in the process got

to a century and the target.

Earlier, put into bat first, Titans lost Wriddhiman Saha in the first over. Shubman Gill struggled for rhythm while Sudharsan got going. Gill was finally sent back by Glenn Maxwell. However, Sudharsan, joined by M Shahruxh Khan, did not let that affect the run rate. The two Tamil Nadu batters added 86 runs for the third wicket.



Virat Kohli and Will Jacks (R) added unbeaten 166 runs for the 2nd wicket | AFP

EXPRESS READ

India beat Bangladesh in 1st women's T20I

SYLHET: Pacers Renuka Singh and Pooja Vastrakar shared five wickets as India outclassed Bangladesh by 44 runs in the opening women's T20I. Opting to bat, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur & Yastika Bhatia provided solidity in the middle order but India could manage only 145/7.

Mohun Bagan beat Odisha, reach ISL final

KOLKATA: Mohun Bagan Super Giant put up a clinical show to beat Odisha FC 2-0 in the second leg of their semifinal meeting in the ISL on Sunday. In the process they reached the final after securing a 3-2 win on aggregate. They lost 1-2 in the first leg in Bhubaneswar.

Historic outing for Indian archers in World Cup

KALYANI MANGALE @ Chennai

IT was a historic day for Indian archery as the Indian men's re-curve team of Dhiraj Bommadevara, Tarundeep Rai and Pravin Jadhav shocked reigning Olympic champions South Korea in a historic win to land an Archery World Cup gold medal after 14 years in Shanghai. In a battle between the top two seeds of the competition, India won 5-1 to take their gold medal count to five in the season-opening Stage 1 World Cup. Deepika Kumari, on her return to competitive archery, won the silver medal in the recurve women's event while the re-curve mixed team of Ankita Bhakat and Dhiraj bagged the bronze. Earlier, the compound



Indian compound archers won 4 gold and 1 silver in the World Cup Stage I

archery contingent had added four gold medals and a silver medal to India's tally.

What makes this men's team win even more special is the fact that India were up against the favourites, South Korea, who featured two members of the Tokyo Olympics gold medal-winning team, Kim Woojin and Kim Je Deok. Deepika also

defeated her Korean rivals Jeon Hunyoung and Nam Sihyeon in the quarterfinal and semifinal, respectively. However, she lost to Hangzhou Asian Games champion Lim Sihyeon of Korea in straight sets.

So far, India have a solitary Olympic berth which was earned by Dhiraj in the men's individual section. The final

Olympic qualifying event is the Stage 3 World Cup in Antalya, Turkey, from June 18 to 23 following which the team rankings will offer two additional quotas for the first time.

Earlier, Jyothi Surekha Vennam, India's most decorated compound archer, added another feather to her cap with three gold medals. The Asian Games gold medalist won the team gold alongside Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur. She then teamed up with Abhishek Verma to win the mixed team gold and beat Mexico's Andrea Becerra to win the individual gold medal. In the men's event, the Verma, Priyansh and Prathamesh Fuge team grabbed the gold, while Priyansh settled for silver.

Man City stay hot on heels of leaders Arsenal

AGENCIES @ London

MANCHESTER City overcame relegation-threatened Nottingham Forest 2-0 on Sunday to close to within one point of Premier League leaders Arsenal and keep the destiny of the title race in their own hands.

Mikel Arteta's team had thrown down the gauntlet earlier in the day, fending off a Tottenham fightback to win 3-2, briefly moving four points clear of City.

But the champions saw off a spirited Forest, with goals from Josko Gvardiol and Erling Haaland in either half.



Arsenal's Bukayo Saka & Declan Rice rejoice after their win vs Tottenham | AP

Serie A title for Inter Milan

Milan: Inter Milan celebrated its Serie A title following a 2-0 home win over Torino on Sunday. Hakan Calhanoglu scored two second-half goals to extend Inter's advantage to 19 points over second-place AC Milan.

No selection trials for World qualifier

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

GIVEN the Delhi High Court instructions of March 7, the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has decided not to hold trials to select wrestlers for the World Olympic Games Qualifier scheduled in Istanbul, Turkey from May 9 to 12. Instead, the federation has decided to send the wrestlers, who had competed in the Asian Olympic Games Qualifier in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan this month and could not earn quotas for the country.

As per the court order, winners of the selection trials held on March 10 and 11 were eligible to compete in both the Asian and World Olympic qualifier. Only women wrestlers have

earned four Olympic quotas so far with Antim Panghal (53kg) winning a bronze medal and hence an Olympic quota in the 2023 World Championships while Vinesh Phogat (50kg), Anshu Malik (57kg) and Reetika Hooda (76kg) bagged a quota each earlier this month during the Asian qualifier. As many as 14 quotas (2 in women (62kg, 68kg), 6 in men's freestyle and as many in Greco-Roman) are up for grabs and the World qualifier will be the last chance for Indian wrestlers to secure a quota ahead of the Paris Games.

Earlier, the WFI had decided to hold the trials taking men wrestlers' abysmal show in the qualifier. This also meant Deep-

ak Punia (86kg) and Sujeeet Kalkal (65kg) abandoned their trips to Russia to make sure they compete in the trials. The duo was unfortunate as they were left stranded at the Dubai International Airport following unprecedented rains and could reach Bishkek for the Asian qualifier only after the weigh-in process was completed. That had forced them to miss the qualifier.

"The WFI has decided not to hold the selection trials. All the 14 wrestlers, who came first during the first selection trials and represented the country in the Asian qualifier, are eligible to compete in the World qualifier," said a WFI.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Skeet shooter Chauhan set for Olympic debut

ANMOL GURUNG @ Chennai

INDIAN shooting is truly burning bright at the moment.

Skeet shooter Maheshwari Chauhan became the latest to come under the spotlight with a quota-winning silver medal in the ISSF Final Olympic Qualification Championship in Doha on Sunday. Like a woman possessed, she was in her element from the word go in the event.

The skeet shooter didn't just get the quota, she aced it and narrowly missed out on a gold medal after falling short in the shoot-off. Eventual gold medalist Francisca Crovetto Chadid of Chile and the Indian were tied on 54 after a 60-shot final which led to the shoot-off.

The shooter from Rajasthan had come agonisingly close to qualifying for the Olympics in the Asian Shotgun Championships earlier this year and the day's outcome is a timely boost. "I have been working towards it (on her shooting) for too long. For the last couple of years, I have been dedicated towards the sport. I missed out in Kuwait by a couple of points. So it was all the more important for me to stay calm and try to do my best and enjoy this competition because this was the last opportunity for us. I'm so happy that I have been able to do something for my country and myself," Maheshwari told this daily from Doha.

Having secured her first target, she was looking to put the icing on the cake. "I was really nervous when the shoot-off started for the gold and that cost me a little bit but I'm hoping that this is the start of many," she added, while also taking out the time to thank her parents, NRAI and everyone who has supported her over the years.

With Maheshwari's effort, India now boasts an impressive total of 21 quotas in the sport. Moreover, the country will have women's representation in the skeet discipline for the first time in the Olympics. Raiza Dhillon is another woman shooter, who has secured a quota in this particular event. Maheshwari is naturally stoked to be part of history. "This is a big win for India as this is the first time women shooters from skeet will be participating in the Olympics. I'm proud of the fact that I'll get to be part of it." This quota is also bound to add to her belief and Maheshwari will be keen on replicating this performance in Paris.

Full story: newindianexpress.com



Maheshwari Chauhan



ELITE SERVICES

INSIGHTS INTO UPSC'S FOREST, ENGINEERING, ECONOMIC & STATISTICAL SERVICES

Focusing on the preservation and protection of the nation's resources, while also contributing to its development, is the primary objective of several elite services under the UPSC umbrella. These coveted services, distinct from the Civil Services (CS), include the Indian Forest Service (IFoS/IFS), Indian Engineering Service (IES), Indian Economic Service (IES), and Indian Statistical Service (ISS). Unlike the CS, these are specialised services that exclusively recruit candidates with specific educational backgrounds tailored to the job roles they entail

INDIAN FOREST SERVICE (IFoS/IFS)

One of the All India Services, alongside the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and the Indian Police Service (IPS), the prestigious Indian Forest Service (IFoS/IFS) provides aspirants with an opportunity to work for the environment and forest departments in the country.

Sector: Environment, Forests, and Climate Change

Cadre controlling authority: Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change

Size and comparison: The Indian Forest Service (IFS) stands as the youngest and smallest among the three All-India Services.

Training institute: Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehradun, Uttarakhand

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Ecological Environment Assurance: Ensuring the preservation of the country's ecological environment

Sustainable Resource Management: Recording and ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources within their jurisdiction, including areas such as national parks, tiger reserves, wildlife sanctuaries, and other protected areas

IMPORTANT DETAILS OF THE IFoS/IFS EXAM

Educational requirements: Candidates should hold a graduate degree in fields such as Botany, Chemistry, Geology, Math, Physics, Statistics, or a Bachelor's degree in Engineering, Agriculture, or Forestry, or Zoology

Age limit: 21-32 years (excluding relaxation category)



Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehradun, Uttarakhand



PERKS & ALLOWANCES TRAVEL ALLOWANCE FOR WORK

- 1 House Allowance
- 2 Dearness Allowance (DA)
- 3 Domestic help
- 4 Medical Allowance
- 5 Transportation
- 6 Lease Allowance
- 7 Study leave



AUTHORISED PAY GRADE OF THE IFoS

Pay scale starts at ₹56,100 at the Junior Time Scale and can reach up to ₹2,25,000 at the Apex Scale

FUN FACT

Dietrich Brandis is widely considered as the Father of this service



Steps to crack IFoS/IFS

- Begin with the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Civil Services Examination (CSE) prelims.
- Prepare for the IFoS mains examination, where all papers are conducted in English.
- The final stage of the exam, after the IFoS mains, is the interview round carrying 300 marks.
- Following the interview, candidates must undergo a physical test. Male candidates are required to complete a 25 km walk/run in under four hours, while female candidates must complete a 14 km walk/run in the same timeframe, with standards outlined in Appendix-III.
- Successful candidates undergo intensive training at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), followed by a 15-week training at the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy. Upon completion, they are awarded an MSc in Forestry by the Forest Research Institute.

INDIAN STATISTICAL SERVICE (ISS)

All you need to know about Indian Statistical Services, whose cadre is posted across 40 different ministries and departments

Sector: Statistics, policy monitoring

Cadre controlling authority: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

Cadre size: 814 (as of 2015)

Training institute: National Statistical System Training Academy, Greater Noida

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ISS OFFICER

- The Indian Statistical Service (ISS) is a Group A Civil Service responsible for the production of official statistics for the Government of India.
- As the name suggests, ISS officers are tasked with the function of compiling official statistics at the central level for use by government and non-government entities. Similar to the IES, ISS cadres are posted across the central government's departments and ministries.

TRAINING:

Upon clearing the interview round, the ISS recruits are given direct appointment, and enter their stipulated probationary training for two years at the National Statistical System Training Academy, Greater Noida.

Within this period, the trainee officers also attend training modules in subjects like:

- **Parliamentary Procedures:** Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies, New Delhi
- **Poverty and Inequality Estimation:** National Institute for Rural Development, Hyderabad
- **Basics of Micro and Macro Economic Theory and its Interpretation:** Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi
- **Applied Econometrics:** Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru
- **Data Processing and Data Analysis:** Data Processing Division Headquarters, Kolkata

IMPORTANT DETAILS OF THE ISS EXAM

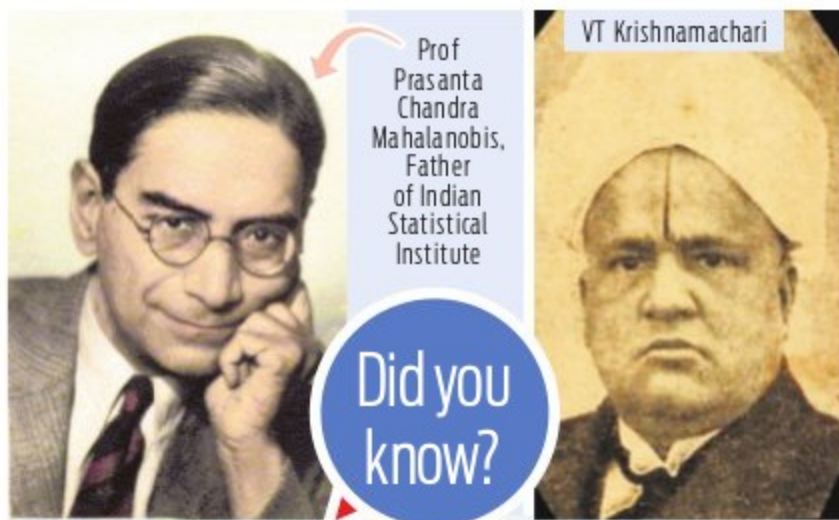
Educational qualifications	Bachelor's degree in one of the following subjects:
	● Statistics ● Mathematical Statistics
	● Applied Statistics
	(OR)
	Master's degree in the following:
	● Statistics ● Mathematical Statistics
	● Applied Statistics
Age limit	21 - 30 years (excluding relaxation category)

AUTHORISED PAY GRADE OF ISS OFFICERS

The pay scale begins at ₹15,600 - ₹39,100, with a Grade Pay of ₹5,400 at the Junior Time Scale, and can extend up to ₹80,000 (fixed) at the Apex Scale, with an annual increment of three per cent.

PERKS & ALLOWANCES

- Dearness Allowance of up to 40 per cent
- House Rent Allowance between 10 per cent and 40 per cent
- Transport Allowance ● Medical insurance
- Maternity Allowance



Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, Father of Indian Statistical Institute



VT Krishnamachari

Did you know?

The idea for a cadre of statisticians was conceived in 1953 by VT Krishnamachari, the then Deputy Commissioner of the erstwhile Planning Commission. Krishnamachari, in his report, recommended the formation of the Statistical and Economic Advisory Service. However, the then Honorary Statistical Advisor to the Cabinet Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis suggested the creation of a separate Central Statistical Pool. Amidst these contradictory views, the Cabinet decided in 1958 that two separate services, namely the Indian Economic Service and the Indian Statistical Service should be formed. Subsequently, the ISS was constituted along with the IES in 1961.

INDIAN ECONOMIC SERVICE (IES)

A comprehensive look at the Indian Economic Service, its constitution, eligibility and examination, and career prospects for those economists aspiring to this role

Sector: Financial and economic policy, administration

Cadre controlling authority: Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance

Cadre size: 477 (as of 2015)

Training institute: Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi

Training: After being offered an appointment, direct recruits enter the service and go through a rigorous probationary training programme for 16 months, similar to all Group A gazetted service recruits

THIS TRAINING INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING

- Foundation course training at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy Of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie
- Training on Applied Economics at the Institute of Economic Growth located in New Delhi
- Training and attachment at various national-level institutes located across the country

IMPORTANT DETAILS OF THE IES EXAM

Educational qualifications	A postgraduate degree from a UGC recognised university in either
	● Economics ● Applied Economics
	● Business Economics ● Econometrics
Age limit	21 - 30 years (excluding relaxation category)

NOTABLE PUBLIC FIGURES

These public and political figures began their careers in the IES:



Manmohan Singh, Former Prime Minister of India



Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Last Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Indian Economic Service (IES) is a Group A Civil Service constituted on November 1, 1961. The IES occupies a very niche position within the Government of India and specialises in economic and policy advice.
- Along with advice, the IES also deals with economic administration, the implementation of development policies and programmes, economic reforms, regulation, price fixation, and monitoring and evaluation.
- A unique characteristic of the IES is that its cadre posts are spread across departments and ministries of the Central government, which need specialists in economics, policy and governance, and statistics. Officers also get posted to the Department of Economic Affairs, NITI Aayog, and the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).

IES OFFICERS ARE POSTED IN

- NITI Aayog ● Ministry of Economic Affairs
- National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO)
- Department of Economic Affairs
- Department of Expenditure
- Department of Financial Services
- Department of Investment and Public Asset Management ● Department of Revenue

Furthermore, IES officers also get to serve in regulatory bodies, international organisations such as the United Nations and its bodies, and foreign governments.

Authorised pay grade of the IES

The pay scale starts at ₹56,100 at the Junior Time Scale and can go up to ₹1,77,500 at the Apex Scale.

Perks & allowances

- Dearness Allowance of up to 40 per cent
- House Rent Allowance between 10 per cent and 40 per cent ● Transport Allowance
- Medical insurance ● Maternity Allowance

EDUCATION & CAREER ADVANCEMENT

IES officers can also take part in several exchange opportunities such as:

- UK-India Economic Policy Exchange
- Australian Treasury Exchange Programme
- Indian Economic Service-UK Government Economic Service Exchange Programme

The IES also lets officers pursue higher education and research opportunities such as:

- Annual Winter School Programme in the Delhi School of Economics
- PhD and more enabled by sanctioned breaks from service
- Research paper submissions to the NITI Aayog and Delhi School of Economics



DAY'S DIARY

End of production

On this day in 2004, Oldsmobile came off the assembly line at the Lansing Car Assembly plant, ending the 106-year-old automotive brand

LAST MANUFACTURE

The last produced 500 Aleros featured 'Final 500' emblems painted in dark metallic cherry red. One of which was moved to Lansing's RE Olds Transportation Museum



FOUNDATION

In 1897 Ransom Olds, founded the Olds Motor Vehicle Company. After successful operation for decades, it failed in late 90's and shut down



ONE OF THE OLDEST

More than 35 million vehicles were built during the brand's lifetime. Along with Daimler and Peugeot, Oldsmobile was among the world's oldest auto brands

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

Today, on the 176th birth anniversary of Raja Ravi Varma, witness the artist's profound legacy, from his revolutionary artwork to his cultural impact, through Reeling Ravi Varma, a digital initiative, led by city-based writer-art historian Ganesh Shivaswamy, that delves deep into the life and times of the iconic painter

A BRUSH WITH THE ART OF RESISTANCE



DESE GOWDA

BORN during a pivotal era in the formation of modern Indian identity, Raja Ravi Varma played a crucial role in democratising art. His vivid depictions captured the everyday beauty of the subcontinent and brought its mythology to life, making the divine and mythical accessible to a wider audience. Varma's influence on the visual arts extends beyond the canvas; his portrayal of Indian women and their expressive eyes often conveying stories of their own, has inspired not only generations of artists but also the Indian film and fashion industries. His impact is evident in the elaborate costumes and dramatic cinematic sets, especially in the portrayal of historical and mythological figures.

In an effort to bridge the past and present, city-based writer and art historian Ganesh Shivaswamy has launched a digital initiative - Reeling Ravi Varma - to make Varma's legacy more accessible. After authoring a six-volume series on Varma's life and work last year, Shivaswamy recognised the limitations of print in reaching a broader audience. "Despite exploring hundreds of

Varma's artworks, thousands remain unexamined. Writing more volumes would be excessive," Shivaswamy explains. He points to the evolution of society - from revolution and industrialisation to democratisation and digitisation - as paralleling Varma's own journey from traditional painting to print. "As one of the custodians of his legacy, I felt compelled to embrace digital platforms. Unlike print, digital media allows for dynamic content such as moving images and music and engages with current issues," Shivaswamy adds.

The project is not just about displaying art; it's about telling stories. Each digital short is crafted to convey not just the aesthetic beauty of Varma's paintings but also their cultural, historical, and social contexts. "We explore what happens behind the scenes of a painting, what occurs post-painting through the printing process, and delve into various aspects of law, such as obscenity and copyright, and how these intersect with advertising challenges. Some are single episodes, while others are part of a series," says Shivaswamy.

Meanwhile, Reeling Ravi Varma also serves as both a supplement to Shivaswamy's detailed written works and as a standalone resource that caters to a broader audience, including those who might not have the patience or interest to delve into extensive scholarly texts. By presenting art in an engaging format, the initiative hopes to spark or enhance an interest in art, making it accessible and relevant to contemporary audiences. "The approach is to be not judgmental, not conditional. I don't believe it is solely for one type of person and not another. We want to be as inclusive as possible. At the end of the day, we intend it to be a credible source of information about all things Ravi Varma," he adds.

(Reeling Ravi Varma (rajaravivarma.ganeshshivaswamy) is available on Instagram, Youtube and Facebook)

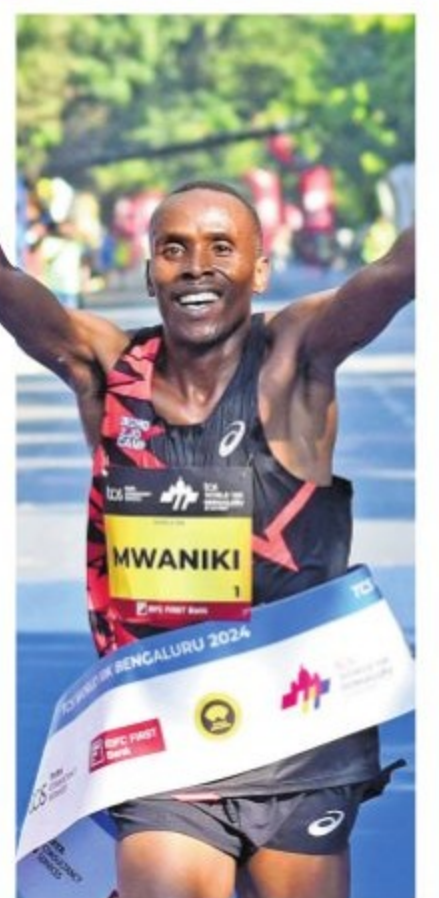


PICS: VINOD KUMAR T AND SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA



LACING UP & SHOWING UP

Over 30,000 athletes from all over the world gathered at the 16th edition of TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2024 on Sunday with Kenyan athletes Peter Mwaniki (28:15) and Lilian Kasait (30:56) emerging as the winners in the men's and women's titles, respectively. Among other star athletes were the world's second fastest woman in the 10K distance Emmaculate Anyango Achol from Kenya. Valerie Adams (in above pic, in yellow) the renowned shot putter and four-time World Champion was also present at the event as the event ambassador.



COMPACT & COMFY



P3



Aslam Gafoor (@aslamgafoor) is a hospitality professional with experience in business development, sales and marketing with well-known hotels, and food and beverage companies. A few of his passions are travel, food and wine, and he enjoys sharing these experiences as a columnist.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com with the subject line 'Food quiz'. The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in CE on Monday. The first-prize winner will receive a voucher for a one-month subscription worth ₹3,000 from Suav-Asian Cafe**



THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Saffron 2) Raw Avocado 3) Arborio

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Shubham Kumar 2) Poonam Iyer 3) Hitesh G

Keep your style quotient sizzling as you beat this summer's scorching heat with floral midi dresses which are now in trend

MONIKA MONALISA

THE temperature in Bengaluru is soaring, and the fashion scene has drifted towards comfortable and practical wear...something along the lines of white floral English countryside midi dresses. Even B-town ladies like Sonam Kapoor, Khushi Kapoor, and Alia Bhatt have been spotted in these dresses. Fashion enthusiasts in the city have figured out many ways to style this midi look. For example, fashion content creator Noopur Artul goes with a breezy and free-flowing look, complete with a straw hat. "It's summer and I want to keep it simple and earthy. So I just wear a straw hat. It is about being practical and managing the heat. With my look, I feel care-free and happy," says Artul, who feels white has a positive effect on her.

Not just her but fashion designer Archana Shankar also has similar views. "For me,

Hot Couture

summers are synonymous with whites. A well-fitted white midi dress goes for all occasions. Also, with the kind of heat wave Bengaluru is going through, wearing trousers is becoming extremely uncomfortable, so a midi dress is perfect," says Shankar. Another way to lift the look is accessorising it with a pop of colour. Fashion designer Shloka Sudhakar suggests adding a belt and heels for a sun-downer. "For one such event, I added a black belt to the dress which accentuated my silhouette. I wore green heels to add

that pop of colour. It also helped me break the black-and-white monotone," says Sudhakar. With all the accessorising, the simplicity of the dress itself is often forgotten. Smitha Yadav, a fashion stylist, wanted to make the simplicity of the dress stand out. "I wore this plain white midi dress to a resort. I found it to be a stunning piece that I decided not to add anything more. Usually, I would have gone in for some gold jewellery but this time, I kept it simple with a pearl stud," says Yadav, adding that keeping summer in mind and carrying straw sling bags will add to the holiday feel. She further adds, "I believe the fabric is everything. These dresses feel best if they are in linen or cotton. There are many brands which offer well-fitted midi dresses."

With the kind of heat wave Bengaluru is going through, wearing trousers is becoming extremely uncomfortable, so a midi dress is perfect - Archana Shankar, designer



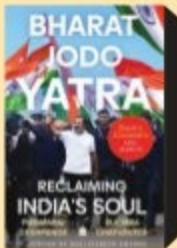
Shloka Sudhakar

Khushi Kapoor

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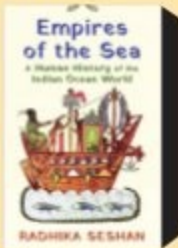
NOOK



Bharat Jodo Yatra: Reclaiming India's Soul

by Pushparaj Deshpande and Ruchira Chaturvedi

This is the definitive account of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, the epic 4,000-kilometre nationwide march from September 2022 to January 2023 under the stewardship of Rahul Gandhi.



Empires of the Sea

by Radhika Seshan

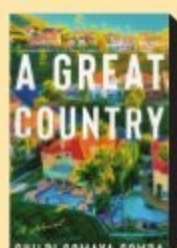
Combining scholarly rigour with a storyteller's flair, Empires of the Sea presents India afresh as a nation of pluralities made possible by virtue of its long-standing maritime relations with the world at large.



My Beloved Life

by Amitava Kumar

An exceptionally moving novel that traces the arc of a man's life from his birth in 1935 in a small village in India to his death from COVID-19 in 2020.



A Great Country

Shilpi Somaya Gowda

A Great Country explores themes of immigration, generational conflict, social class, and privilege as it reconsiders the myth of the model minority and questions the price of the American dream.



LETTERING STROKES

Nikheel Aphale, a calligraphy artist, explains his artwork to visitors at his solo exhibition, Nirakar Aakar, recently held at Bangalore International Centre | ALLEN EGENUSE J

QUICKFIX

KHEER

INGREDIENTS

- **Basmati rice:** 1/4 cup
- **Full-fat milk:** 1L
- **Sugar:** 1/4 cup
- **Cardamom powder:** 1/4 tsp
- **Saffron (soaked in 1 tsp warm milk):** A few strands
- **Chopped Nuts (cashews, pistachios, etc.):** 2 tsp
- **Raisins (golden or black):** 1 tsp

METHOD

- Rinse the rice and soak for 15-20 mins while you bring the milk to a boil. Then, add the soaked rice, and simmer cook for 20-25 mins, stirring occasionally.
- Once the rice is cooked and the milk thickens, add sugar and cardamom powder. Stir well and simmer for another 5 minutes.
- Add the saffron-infused milk and chopped nuts. Stir gently and cook for a minute. Remove from heat.
- Garnish with raisins and serve the kheer warm or chilled.



Contributed by Purnima Singh, Delhi

WHATWHENWHYWHERE



Musical Concert

Revel in the magic of the **Band Caprico** live on stage in namma Bengaluru. This classical fusion band ensures a musical and fun evening with your friends and family. **WHEN:** May 3, 7pm
WHERE: Sunburn Union, Koramangala | **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

Theatre Time

Watch a gripping journey with the play *To Kill a Mockingbird*, a timeless exploration of morality and justice in the American South of the 1930s. Follow Scout and Jem Finch as they confront prejudice and witness the courage of their father, Atticus, in defending truth and equality.

WHEN: May 2, 7.30pm
WHERE: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com



Chronicles of Hope

Experience the spirit of resilience and optimism in *Chardi Kala*, a documentary capturing the historic farmers' protest in India. Witness their unwavering dedication to justice as they bravely stood against unjust agricultural laws, embodying the principles of sewa (selfless service) and chardi kala (eternal optimism).

WHEN: May 1, 6.30pm | **WHERE:** Bangalore International Centre, Domlur
DETAILS: bangaloreinternationalcentre.org



Clay Date

An intimate pottery workshop, where you and your partner can bond over the art of clay. Guided by skilled instructors, explore hand-building, wheel-throwing, and painting to express your shared vision.

WHEN: April 29, 6pm | **WHERE:** Wheel and Potter Pottery Studio, Srinivasa Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Sing with Me

Get ready to sing your hearts out and unleash the singer in you with this fun karaoke night. Get together with your friends and family and unwind with a musical evening.

WHEN: May 3, 8pm
WHERE: Small World, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com



Step Up

Get your fitness regime in as you dance your way through it with Zumba fitness classes, focusing on cardio, stretching, and dance routines for a full-body workout.

WHEN: April 29, 7pm
WHERE: New York Dance Classes, BTM 2nd stage
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com



Scenic Tour

Embark on a Chikkamagaluru trip, spanning two days and one night. Explore scenic wonders like Mullyanagiri peak, Jhari water falls, and more with optional activities available for an unforgettable adventure.

WHEN: May 3, 10pm
WHERE: Meeting point at Kalamandir, Marathahalli
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Open Mic

Step into the spotlight to showcase your hidden talents for poetry, music, comedy, and more! Secure your spot early at the venue to perform in five-minute slots.

WHEN: May 4, 5.30pm
WHERE: Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com



The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.

I recently adopted a parrot. It seems scared and is unwilling to come out of its cage. How can I help it feel comfortable?

Bringing a new bird home is the beginning of a new chapter that involves a lot of learning and patience. Unlike social examples of pets like dogs and cats, for a bird the environment keeps evolving. You need to make a safe space for the bird which is large enough for them to spread their wings fully. It's icing on the cake if the bird can fly a short distance. Mental stimulation

ASK AN XPERT

with toys and perches help them keep their interest going in the environment and feel comfortable. Parrots are like humans, talking to them and playing with them, gives them a sense of belonging and makes them feel important. Follow these tips, and I am very certain that the parrot will soon be cordial and congenial in the environment.



FITBIT

KAPOTASANA II BOLSTER

(PIGEON POSE FORWARD BEND BOLSTER)

This yoga pose is included in Yin Yoga; Sleeping Swan Pose, which is called as Kapotasana II. It can be a challenge for some, given the pressure put in the gluteus, hip flexors, lower back, psoas muscles, and hamstrings. With the support of a bolster for the head, one can reduce the discomfort in the lower body, making it an easy access for all. In this pose, take precautions to avoid overstretching or pulling the engaged muscles, joints of the hips, pelvis and knees.

STEPS

- Place a bolster in front of you and begin Ardha Kapotasana (Half Pigeon Pose). Square the hips in the center without leaning on any side.
- If you feel comfortable, place your back foot farther behind to open the hips.
- Relax the body and bring awareness onto the hips.
- Inhale and raise your arms.
- Exhale, bend forward and position your chest and left cheek on the bolster. Grab the lengths of the bolster with your hands for a deeper stretch.
- Stay here for 5-6 breaths. Slowly increase the duration upto a minute.
- Bring awareness to the hip flexors and gluteus muscles.
- To release, place your palms on the ground and slowly bring them in front of the pelvis.
- Inhale, slowly lift the torso to come back to Ardha Kapotasana. Exhale and relax.
- Press the palms down, gently lift your hips and take the left leg back and come to Adho Mukha Svanasana (Downward Facing Dog).
- Take your time to do this. Relax in this pose for 5-6 breaths before moving on to the other side.
- Repeat the steps on the other side of the leg.

BENEFITS

- Stretches muscles of the spine, neck and lower body.
- Engages the hip flexors, gluteus, pelvic floor muscles, psoas muscles, lower back, quadriceps and hamstrings.
- Encourages the practitioners to hold the pose for a longer time.
- Helps to work on the weaker parts of the body and face day-to-day challenges, which are uncertain.
- Better muscle toning, joint flexibility, and functioning of organs.
- Releases accumulated stress and tensions.
- Stimulates the endocrine system.
- Very useful for back pain.
- As a part of night yoga, the pose encourages deep undisturbed sleep.
- Heals recovering from any kind of surgery to the internal organs.
- Help with better blood circulation.
- Included in postnatal yoga to relax the hips, pelvis, and lower back.
- Included in chakra yoga.
- It brings balance to the first three chakras.
- Helps balance in the meridians, especially the kidney and bladder.

LIMITATIONS

- People with injured hip or knee or broken arms avoid this.
- Who have hip or knee pain, acute back pain, heart problems, hip tightness, HBP, should practice it under the guidance of a yoga expert.
- Pregnant women in their second and third trimester can follow the Chair Pigeon Pose Variation Forward Bend Foot Bolster.



By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

ARTCORNER



INKING TRADITIONS

Badri Narayan's untitled still life, made with ink and watercolour on paper, shows his debt to the Indian miniature tradition

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

MG's small electric car, the Comet, has made waves in the Indian car market since its launch a year ago. With its compact size, two doors, and four seats, it offers a practical solution for urban commuters. My initial impressions were positive, and after using it for over a month, I'm even more satisfied. Let's explore what makes the Comet perfect for daily city driving:

Design

The Comet's design, optimised for city use, features wide doors and spacious interiors despite its compact size. The step-through cabin ensures easy access to both front and back seats, making it ideal for single-driver city commuters.

Power

Equipped with a 17.3 kWh lithium-ion battery, the Comet boasts a claimed range of 230km per full charge, although real-world driving yielded around 190-200 km. With 42 hp and 110 Nm of torque, the electric motor provides smooth acceleration, especially in the city. The addition of fast charging options further enhances convenience,

reducing charging time to just 2.5 hours for a full charge.

Driving

The Comet offers a smooth driving experience, with an automatic transmission system and eco-friendly driving modes maximising efficiency and range. While charging infrastructure remains a consideration, public charging stations are feasible with proper planning.

Other features

The Comet excels in manoeuvrability, with a tight turning radius and helpful features like a reverse camera and sensors for effortless parking. Priced competitively between ₹6.99 lakh and ₹9.24 lakh (ex-showroom), it offers excellent value for money.

Verdict

While the Comet has many strengths, some minor drawbacks include the light-coloured cabin prone to staining and the absence of a glove box. Accessing the seat belt may be slightly challenging for front-seat passengers due to the wide doors.

However, these issues are overshadowed by the Comet's overall appeal as a delightful electric city car. MG Comet emerges as an excellent choice for urban commuters seeking a practical, efficient, and affordable electric vehicle option.

COMPACT & COMFY

Minor issues notwithstanding, MG's small electric car, the Comet, emerges as an excellent choice for urban commuters seeking a practical, efficient, and affordable electric vehicle option

SPECIFICATIONS

Length x Width x Height (mm): 2,974 x 1,505 x 1,640
Wheelbase (mm): 2,010
Seat capacity: 4
Suspension(Front): McPherson Strut
Suspension(Rear): Multi-Link Coil Suspension
Wheel and tyre: 145/70R12
Brakes : Disc (Front) + Disc (Rear)
Brake Type: Electronic Parking Brake
Steering: Electric Power Steering
Turning Circle Radius (m): 4.2

NEW RELEASES



Aprilia rolls out its superbikes

Aprilia, the manufacturer of high-performance motorcycles, has officially launched its extensive superbike portfolio in the Indian market. The company has also announced the appointment of John Abraham as its brand ambassador to spearhead this exciting initiative. All these new superbikes are made available in India as fully-built imported units. RSV4 factory: ₹31,26,000; RS660: ₹17,74,000; Tuono 660: ₹17,44,000; Tuareg 660: ₹18,85,000 (ex-showroom prices).



Yamaha launches AEROX 155 Version S

India Yamaha Motor has launched the AEROX 155 Version S, a motorbike which embodies the spirit of performance, style and innovation. The latest version of the Maxi-Sports Scooter comes with advanced Smart Key technology, and is powered by a new generation 155cc Blue Core engine mated to a CVT transmission. It has a max power output of 15ps and 13.9Nm of torque. The AEROX 155 Version S will be exclusively available at Blue Square showrooms in two shades — silver and racing blue. It costs ₹1,50,600 (ex-showroom, Delhi).

Mahindra unveils Bolero Neo+

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd unveiled the Bolero Neo+ nine-seater in two variants — the P4 and the premium P10, targeting large families, institutional customers, tour and travel operators, and contractors who lease vehicles to companies. The nine seats are arranged in a 2-3-4 pattern. The ex-showroom prices are: Bolero Neo+ P4 variant: ₹11.39 lakh; P10 variant: ₹12.49 lakh.



Jeep's Compass Night Eagle out

Jeep India drives in the all-black Compass Night Eagle with premium features and sharp design cues. The Night Eagle variant comes with a captivating 'black' motif, and a gloss-black finish for the grille, grille rings, 18" alloy wheels, and the roof rails. Features include a panoramic sunroof, connectivity and wireless charger. There are two powertrain options: the 2.0L multijet turbo diesel paired with a six-speed manual transmission or a nine-speed automatic transmission. Prices start at ₹25.39 lakh.



EAT, THEN REPEAT!

RUBINATIONS
Rubi Chakravarti
Writer, actor and funny girl

To state the obvious, we're all feeling 'hot-hot-hot'! Someone even suggested we should start frying eggs or boil water on the pavements. Ah! But the catch is we don't have pavements! Keeping this in mind I courageously crossed the (treeless) road to duck into UB City to celebrate the 10th anniversary of 'Sanchez Cantina'. My friend Chef Vikas Seth wouldn't take 'no' for an answer and with the promise of a 'Mariachi' band (who had especially flown down for the occasion) and world-famous tequila cocktails to boot, how on earth could we refuse? Spending time with family and 'friends like family' is simply my way of having fun. The chef outdid himself with his gastronomical expertise, and to call the Mexican fare he meted out mere 'food' would be a

disservice to his skill and mastery over the cuisine. But truth be told, I nearly passed out with the heat! Getting back home (which is across the street) was a 'sweat-exercise'. Thank the Lord for my friend Shruti who shoved me into her car and turned the air-conditioning on to a full blast before I went into a blackout situation. I suppose we can do this much for people!

It has been an eating (drinking) orgy the past two weeks as we had family visiting. But when the lovely Ritu and George Kuruvilla invited us to The Ritz-Carlton to partake in the ongoing food festival by the legendary 'Karims' of Delhi, I went solo, as the fam-jam was 'fully-fed-up' by then! It was a small gathering of 'friends only' and both, the tinkling of the Baccarat crystal and the laughter, resounded around the room. Needless to say, the 'old-Delhi' food was exceptional and all the age-old techniques were in play as the traditional 'slow-cooked' Mughlai cuisine wound its way to our table.

Everyone was raving about the newly opened

Jamie Oliver's Kitchen. Jamie has loads of fans in India as he is a 'TV Chef' with a great smile and a charming lisp! His recipes are easy, and 'no-fuss' and he serves up some delicious pizzas. Much to the angst of my food-aficionado friends, I have eaten at his restaurant in London, which has since closed down. So it was heartening to know that the eatery is well and thriving in Bangalore. The pizzas were mind-blowing and his pasta and salads were very good with fresh ingredients and a fuss-free cooking style. Jamie Oliver! You will thrive in 'namma-ooru'!

Chef Hans Christian and hotelier Budi Cahyadi were here to showcase their Indonesian restaurant, 'August's' pop-up at Leela Bhairya City. Ranked 46 in Asia's top 50 list, their epicurean reveal was bang-on!

'Life is short, eat the sprinkles!' (The writer's views are personal)



(From left) Belen Ojeda, Anjelica Patino & Santiago with Vikas Seth

(From left) George & Ritu Kuruvilla, Bia Sandhu & Pancham Taneja

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, GEETHA W/o. Service No.7775525/Ex Hav Sundara Raju, Aged 47 years, resident of #1011, U. Basavaraju Compound, 5th Cross, Khadnura Main Road, Karanjikatte, Kolar- 563101, have changed my name from (OLD NAME) GEETHA to (NEW NAME) S.GEETHA vide affidavit dated 27.04.2024 sworn before Notary Venkateshappa.N Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MANISHA CHAUBEY W/o. Krishna Prasad Chaubey, aged 44 years, residing at QTR No. 30/IV, GC CRPF, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064, have changed my Minor Daughter's name from (OLD NAME) MAITRIYA CHAUBEY to (NEW NAME) MAITRI CHAUBEY vide affidavit dated 24.04.2024 sworn before Notary 7th addl chief metropolitan magistrate, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) MOHAN KUMAR S/o. Ninge Gowda Kyathanahalli Mayi Gowda, Residing at No.263, MMS 19th Cross, 1st Main, Maruthinagara, Near SVS Public School, Ullalu, Bengaluru-560056, have changed my name from (OLD NAME) MOHAN KUMAR to (NEW NAME) MOHAN KUMAR K N vide affidavit dated 27.04.2024 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Chaitra M D/o of Mancha Hegde.M W/o Prakash.L R/a # 119, 2nd stage, 2nd Cross Bhuvaneswari nagar, Doddabasthi Main Road, Bengaluru 560056, have changed my name from CHAITRA M to CHAITRA PRAKASH for all purposes vide Affidavit no IN-KA90472772588291W Dated 25.April.2024 before Notary Puttaramiah, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ELIZABETH KOCHUVEETIL VARGHESE, W/o Ashok Kumar, R/at 20/1, Golden Petals, Flat No. 101, 1st Floor, 12th Cross, B.K. Nagar, Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru-560 022 have changed my name to ELIZABETH ASHOK, vide affidavit dated 27-04-2024, sworn before Notary S.I. BALAGURU, Bengaluru

AFFIDAVIT

We, (i). Sri. Gangadhara K. S/o. Late K. Siddappa, aged about 48 years & (ii). Smt. Sowmya S. W/o. Gangadhara K, aged about 40 years, both R/at No.28/5, "Parivrida" 18th Cross, Annapoorneswari Nagar, Erandapalya, Bengaluru-560 091, do hereby declare that in our son's Birth Certificate, Aadhar Card and other school, his name is wrongly mentioned as "Mohith G" instead of "Mohith G Patel". The suffix "Patel" next to his name "Mohith G" is missed out by recording at the time of registration, henceforth he shall be known and called as "Mohith G Patel" for all purposes. Vide affidavit dated 27-04-2024, sworn before Advocate & Notary S. Vijayakumar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAJASHRI S HEGDE, D/o Purushotham Hegde, aged about 39 years, R/at No-F-627A, BEL 1st Stage, Byadarahalli, Herohalli, Vishwamedam, Bangalore- 560091. My name is mentioned as RAJASHRI S HEGDE in Aadhar card, Pan card, Bank & all others Documents. I have changed my name from "RAJASHRI S HEGDE" to "RAJASHRI HEGDE" by an affidavit sworn before Notary Ravikumar.V, Dated:18-04-2024 at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shruthi Narasimha Prasad, W/o Madhusudhanan Rajagopalan, aged about 36 years, R/at No.120, 1st Floor, Tranquil Residency, Narayanaghatta, Bommasandra, Bangalore- 560099. I have changed my daughter's name from "KARUNYA KEMBA" to "VEDHA M." by an affidavit sworn before Notary S.VIJAYAKUMAR, Dated: 27-04-2024 at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I RACHITHA, Resident at No.1, 1st H Cross, 7th Main, Near K V V School, Subbanna Garden, Vijayanagar Bangalore - 560040. Do hereby declare that I have changed My Son's name from VACHAN.S.R. To VARUSH.S.R. Vide affidavit dated 25.04.2024 sworn to before Advocate and Notary Deepa.M. Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (Old Name) RUCHI SINGH, Spouse of No. JC 706313-F, Rank: NB SUB, VINOD SINGH KUSHWAH, Residing at No 4, 8th 'A' Cross, Gajendra Nagar, Adugodi PO,(Dist) Bangalore 560030, Karnataka (State) Have changed my name to (New Name) RUCHI SINGH KUSHWAH, Vide Affidavit Dated 18/04/2024, Sworn before Notary M RAJENDRA, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, YASMEEN TAJ W/o Arif Ulla Residing at No. # 56, Siddhartha Layout, Kaval Byrasandra, R T Nagar Post, Bangalore - 560032 Have changed my minor Daughters' Name from SUFIHA to SUFIYA FATHIMA vide affidavit dated 04.04.2024 sworn before Notary A. Manjula Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, YASMEEN TAJ W/o Arif Ulla Residing at No. # 56, Siddhartha Layout, Kaval Byrasandra, R T Nagar Post, Bangalore - 560032 Have changed my minor Daughters' Name from ESHRA FATHIMA to ISHRA FATHIMA vide affidavit dated 04.04.2024 sworn before Notary A. Manjula Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mr. PAVITRA KUMAR, residing at Flat: A201, Glen Classic, House of hiranandani, Kodigehalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560092 declare that I have changed my daughter's name to PALAK P from PALAK (old name) before N. Narayana Swamy, notary, Bengaluru vide affidavit dated 27/04/2024

CHANGE OF NAME

I,Dr YAMANAPPA HUSANAPPA MADAR, S/o Husanappa Madar residing at #15, Anugraha 2nd cross Road Atmananda colony, RT Nagar post, Bangalore 560032, have changed my name to Dr YOGESH HUSANAPPA GIRIGAON,vide affidavit dated 23/04/2024 sworn before notary H. H. Nagaraj, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SREERAM SREEKUMAR son of Sreekumar Prabhakaran and Sanjana Sreekumar, aged about 19 years, resident of "Sri Nivas", I No.650, 6th Cross, 6th Main, HAL, 3rd Stage, 560075, I have changed my name from SREERAM to SREERAM SREEKUMAR for all purposes, vide Affidavit dated 25.04.2024 sworn before advocate and notary M. Manjula Devi, Bangalore



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With Rishab Shetty commencing full-fledged shooting, producers and technical crew, armed with top-of-the-line equipment, will be setting up a temporary camp on the coast



HOMBALE FILMS CONSTRUCTS BIGGEST SPRAWLING FLOOR IN KUNDAPURA FOR KANTARA CHAPTER 1 PRODUCTION

A SHARADHAA

KANTARA Chapter 1, the highly anticipated project spearheaded by actor and director Rishab Shetty, has officially commenced shooting. Backed by Vijay Kiragandur-led production house Hombale Films, along with Chaluve Gowda and their dedicated team, the project is all set to unfold on a big scale.

While full-fledged shooting is scheduled to commence this week, with the first phase planned for 20 days, it has come to light that the production team will temporarily set up camp in Kundapura. Even though the outdoor scenes will be filmed in forests, they believe the indoor sequences will shot against the beautiful coastal setting of Kundapura will complement the narrative.

The upcoming prequel to the hit film Kantara, titled Kantara Chapter 1, is raising the bar for Indian film-making. This big-budget production boasts a mas-



Vijay Kiragandur

sive custom-built set in Kundapura - one of the largest since Ramoji Film City. This 200x200 foot indoor set is a marvel of technology, featuring air conditioning, a dubbing studio, and an editing suite. Everything a film requires is being made available.

The production has mobilised 600 carpenters, who are currently on the job, and technicians from Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad, along with stunt masters who have relocated to Kundapura. Actors are undergoing intense training in Kalaripayattu and horse riding, all while meticulously rehearsing scenes - everything conveniently happen-

ing under one roof.

Beyond catering to the artistic needs of Kantara Chapter 1, the production house views the infrastructure as a long-term asset. The facility will become a permanent fixture and will be utilised for future projects, potentially even available for rent to other production houses.

The coastal region of Karnataka has emerged as a hotspot for filmmakers, drawn by its scenic beauty and untapped potential. The production team aims not only to capitalise on the region's natural allure but also to contribute to its growth by fostering infrastructure and opportunities for local talent.

The director and lead actor Rishab Shetty has written the script for Kantara Chapter 1, with writers Anirudh Mahesh and Shanil Guru contributing to the script. The film will feature music by Ajaneesh Loknath, with Aravind Kashyap handling the cinematography. With a few actors from the original Kantara joining the prequel, the full cast is yet to be officially announced.

Akshay Kumar and Taapsee Pannu's Khel Khel Mein gets release date



CE FEATURES

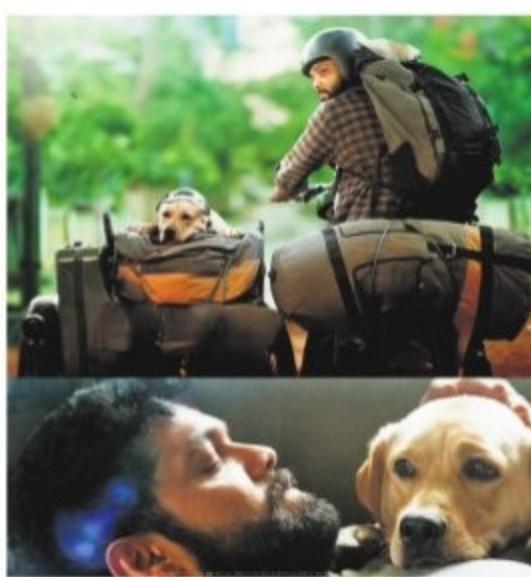
AKSHAY Kumar, Taapsee Pannu, Vaani Kapoor and Fardeen Khan-starrer Khel Khel Mein is all set to hit theatres on September 06. The film is directed by Mudasar Aziz, who has previously helmed H a p p y Bhag Jayegi (2016) and Pati Patni Aur Woh (2019). Ammy Virk, Pragya Jaiswal and Aditya Seal also star in key roles in

the upcoming film.

Khel Khel Mein will see Akshay reunite with Taapsee after Mission Mangal (2019). He has previously worked with Vaani in Bell Bottom (2021). The film will also mark the big screen return of Fardeen Khan after 14 years.

Khel Khel Mein is produced by Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar, Vipul D Shah, Ashwin Varde, Rajesh Bahl, Shashikant Sinha and Ajay Rai. The film has cinematography by Manoj Kumar Khato, and editing by Ninad Khanolkar.

Meanwhile, Akshay, who was last seen in Bade Miyan Chote Miyan, has a slew of films in the pipeline, including Singham Again, Sarfira and Sky Force, among others.



777 Charlie sets paw prints in Japan

Shochiku Films will distribute the adventure drama, which is helmed by Kiranraj and headlined and produced by Rakshit Shetty

CE FEATURES

RAKSHIT Shetty's multilingual film, 777 Charlie produced by Paramvah Studios is now set to debut in Japan. The film is dubbed in Japanese and will be distributed by Shochiku Films, a leading distribution house in Japan. Directed by Kiranraj K, the heart-warming narrative follows Dharma (Rakshit Shetty), whose life is transformed by the mischievous dog. 777 Charlie tells a tale of companionship and self-discovery that transcends borders.

The film stars Charlie the Labrador alongside an ensemble cast including Sangeetha Sringeri, Raj B Shetty, Danish Sait, and Bobby Simha. Shochiku, a prominent figure in Japanese entertainment since 1895, manages Kabuki theatres and has expanded into film production, standing today as one of Japan's Big Four film studios. With a rich history of distributing iconic films like Hachi - A Dog's Tale (2009), Shochiku brings 777 Charlie to Japanese audiences.

The film, which received overwhelming acclaim upon its Indian release, is still trending on Amazon Prime Video and earning praise in Thailand as a dubbed version. Apart from its release in Japan, the film's dubbing rights have also been secured in other territories like Russia and Latin America, showcasing its growing international appeal. The film's team eagerly awaits its reception in Japan, aiming to connect with audiences across cultural boundaries with its tale of laughter, emotions, and the enduring bond between humans and their four-legged companions.



Kalki 2898 AD gets release date

CE FEATURES

THE makers of Kalki 2898 AD, starring an ensemble cast including Prabhas, Deepika Padukone, Amitabh Bachchan, Kamal Haasan and Disha Patani, have officially set a release date for the film. The Nag Ashwin directorial is now scheduled to be released in theatres worldwide on June 27.

Kalki 2898 AD is produced by Chalasani Aswini Dutt, Swapna Dutt and Priyanka Dutt under the Vyjayanthi Movies banner. The film is reportedly a science-fiction that blends the genres of mythology and time travel to create a massive spectacle.

Kalki 2898 AD, earlier titled Project K, has been in the making for a long time. The film's release date has been pushed multiple times in the last few months. Last week, the makers released a character teaser for Amitabh Bachchan, who plays the famous mythological figure Ashwatthama in the film.

The film's technical crew comprises cinematographer Djordje Stojiljkovic, editor Kotagiri Venkateswara Rao and music composer Santhosh Narayanan.

Rakshit Shetty to shoot Richard Anthony exclusively with actors from coastal belt

The actor-director, currently penning the story's climax, will be ready to begin production next year

CE FEATURES

RAKSHIT Shetty, returning to the director's chair with his next film, Richard Anthony, after a hiatus, is set to fully shift base to Udupi from May 1. Reason, the director, who is making a spin-off from his own directorial debut, Ulidavaru Kandante (2014) has planned to shoot his upcoming film entirely in the western coastal belt. Speaking to the media during the elections and at the voting booth, Rakshit discussed the project's status and his reasons for choosing Udupi, where he will also have his team based. Rakshit mentioned, "Ten years ago when I did a spin-off from his own directorial debut, Ulidavaru Kandante, I didn't find it difficult to scout for locations. I don't plan to shoot only in Udupi; I have to explore the other regions like Kerala and Gokarna, in the Western Ghats."

Interestingly, Rakshit Shetty plans to consider mostly local talents from the coastal area for the cast. "We have a few good artists from Bengaluru who have approached for roles, but I can't consider them for the project. It is a must for artists working in Richard Anthony to have the Udupi dialect and the Kannada flavour. Even if I tried to bring in other artists, it would seem more like imitation. We want it to be realistic and free-flowing. So, apart from shooting in the coastal belt, every actor for Richard Anthony will also be from the area."

While the script is pending another month of work, according to our source, Rakshit is currently writing the climax portions. After completing the script, the actor-director is expected to discuss production plans with producer Vijay Kiragandur of Hombale Films.

"I will be ready with the script, pre-production, and set to go only by 2025," he adds.



Rakshit Shetty

PRODUCTION OF SALAAR 2 IS WELL UNDER WAY

Despite the complex pre-production required, the team behind Salaar 2 is dedicated to bringing the sequel to fruition

CE FEATURES

PRASHANTH Neel's latest venture, Salaar Part 1: Ceasefire, produced under the Hombale Films banner, enjoyed a successful run at the box office. Starring Prabhas and Prithviraj Sukumaran in lead roles, the film is now extensively streamed by audiences through OTT platforms.

While Salaar Part 1 enjoyed critical and commercial acclaim alike, speculations have been rife about the fate of its sequel, Salaar Part 2: Shouryaanga Parva. Many

reports have been suggesting that the project has been put on the back burner, with director Prashanth Neel shifting his focus towards Jr NTR's upcoming venture.

Dismissing these rumours, a reliable source close to the production house has confirmed to CE that Salaar 2 is definitely in the pipeline. According to the insider, a substantial portion, approximately 20 per cent of the filming for the sequel has already been completed during the shoot for Salaar Part 1. The source further adds, "Both cast and crew members have been briefed about the project's two-part structure, with a handful of cast and technical crew having been paid advances. No impediments are halting the progression of Salaar 2. Despite the complex pre-production required, the team behind Salaar 2 is dedicated to bringing the sequel to fruition."

The ensemble cast of Salaar 2 also stars Shruti Haasan, Shriya Reddy, Easwari Rao, and Naveen Shankar. Bhuvan Gowda serves as the cinematographer, and Ravi Basrur is the music composer for this magnum opus.



Prabhas



Prashanth Neel